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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
5 May 2009—21 May 2009

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(FORMED BY THE RT. HON. GORDON BROWN, MP, JUNE 2007)

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Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 5 May 2009

TREASURY

Buying Solutions

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): Buying Solutions has been set four performance targets for 2009-10. These are as follows:

to facilitate at least £850 million value for money improvements (£680 million cashable) for the public sector in 2009-10;

to achieve an overall customer satisfaction level of above 90 per cent;

to make a return on capital employed of 6.5 per cent over a five year period (April 2009 to March 2014); and

to reduce by 5 per cent the ratio of internal costs over value for money improvements with the out-turn for the same ratio in 2008-09 proportionate to cashable savings.

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 5 May 2009. The following items are on the agenda:

Economic and financial situation

The European Commission forecasts to be published on 4 May will form the basis of an exchange of views between Ministers about the economic situation. The UK believes there is a continued need for member states to work together in ensuring a co-ordinated response to the crisis.

Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 332/2002

Following on from the conclusions of the 19-20 March 2009 spring European Council, ECOFIN is expected to reach agreement on the Commission's proposal to amend the regulation establishing a facility providing medium-term financial assistance for member states' balances of payments, including a new lending ceiling of €50 billion for the EU balance of payments facility. The Government strongly support the principle of increased financial assistance from the EU for member states facing balance of payments difficulties.

Quality and sustainability of public finances

ECOFIN will be asked to adopt conclusions on the implementation of structural reforms to enhance the sustainability and quality of public finances, and endorse a report on age-related economic and budgetary projections for EU member states. The Government believe in the importance of sustainability and quality of public finances, particularly in the current juncture.

Five years after EU enlargement

Following on from discussions at the informal ECOFIN in April, Ministers will adopt a set of conclusions on the economic impacts of the 2004 wave of enlargement. The UK can support the conclusions, which set out the achievements and benefits of the 2004 enlargement, the importance of structural reforms and the need for resisting protectionist policies.

Dialogue with third countries

The Commission will update the Council on recent progress made on regulatory dialogues with third countries, in particular the United States, China, Japan and Russia. It will focus on reform of the regulation and supervision of the financial system, within the context of the G20.

Taxation

a) Tobacco Directive

The Council will be asked to reach a political agreement on the tobacco directive, which will set out the structure and rates of excise duties applied on manufactured tobacco products.

b) Communication on promoting good governance in tax matters

Following on from the agreements at the G20 London summit on tax havens and OECD standards, the Commission will present a communication setting out aims for improving governance of taxation issues in the EU. The communication also highlights the EU's work on improving tax transparency standards with third countries. The UK believes it is important to ensure that any new suggestions from the Commission complement the existing G20 work.

General budget of the European Union - preliminary draft budget 2010

The Commission will present the proposed EC Budget for 2010. This marks the beginning of the 2010 Annual Budget negotiations that will run until December. The UK supports a realistic budget which promotes sound financial management.

AOB

The presidency will give an update on the state of play on four financial services dossiers heading for first reading deals with the European Parliament: Solvency II, the e-money directive, the cross-border payments regulation and the regulation on credit rating agencies.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Casework Performance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to set and meet a timetable for the majority of planning cases which are to be decided by her (as opposed to being decided by a planning inspector) and to make a report to Parliament each year on performance. This is intended both to ensure that such cases are dealt with expeditiously and to enable the parties to any particular case to know when they can expect to receive a decision.

The Secretary of State has accordingly today laid before Parliament an Act Paper reporting on performance on all decisions made between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 to which statutory timetables apply. Such timetables apply to decisions on called-in planning applications; planning appeals recovered for the Secretary of State's decision; other cases "linked" to such decisions (including listed building consent and conservation area consent);

and appeals against refusals of consent for works to trees covered by tree preservation orders. They do not apply to cases decided by inspectors (which includes all tree preservation order appeals lodged on or after 1 April 2008) or to cases decided by the Secretary of State jointly with a Minister of another Department.

During the period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, 73 (95 per cent.) of the 77 cases decided by the Secretary of State other than tree preservation order appeals were made within their statutory timetables, as were 415 out of 416 decisions (99.75 per cent.) of tree preservation order appeals.

Planning

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): I am today publishing a consultation on proposals for a new Planning Policy Statement 4: "Planning for Prosperous Economies" (PPS4). Copies of the consultation are being placed in the Library of the House.

The planning system is a key lever the Government have to contribute towards improving economic performance. The current uncertain economic times have highlighted the need for planning policies at the national, regional and local level to be flexible and responsive so that they support the economic aspirations of our communities, whether in cities, market towns or rural villages.

In light of this and in keeping with our commitment in our 2007 Planning White Paper and the recommendations of the Killian Pretty review, this comprehensive new draft statement brings together in one place all of the Government's key planning policies relating to the economy and streamlines and simplifies policy to focus on what is important to allow the economy to grow in a sustainable manner.

The new PPS will, in its final form, replace Planning Policy Guidance Note 4: "Industrial, commercial development and small firms" (PPG4, 1992), Planning Policy Guidance Note 5: "Simplified Planning Zones" (PPG5, 1992), Planning Policy Statement 6: "Planning for town centres" (PPS6, 2005), Planning Policy Statement 7: "Sustainable development in rural areas" (PPS7) (in so far as it relates to economic development) and paragraphs 53, 54 and Annex D of Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: "Transport".

At the heart of our policy is the requirement that development plans need to have clear, proactive, proportionate and flexible policies aimed at supporting the start up and growth of businesses, attracting inward investment and increasing employment, particularly in deprived areas. It emphasises that we need also to protect existing investment in our cities and towns by safeguarding the town centres which are the bedrock of our economic future. Our urban centres are not only the engine of the country's economy—and through their urban renaissance policy this Government have strengthened the future of many such centres after years of decline—but are also the hub of community life, helping to stitch together communities through cultural, leisure, social and educational facilities.

The policy statement continues to put town centres first by ensuring that development continues to take place in town centres and promotes their vitality, viability and character. As previously consulted on in draft PPS6, we have removed the "need test" for proposals outside town centres but retained the "sequential test" which requires developers to justify why they cannot build in the centre before they seek to build out of town and strengthened the "impact test" to focus on the potential economic, social and environmental effects of development.

The revised policy also implements a number of recommendations arising from the review by the hon. Member for Truro and St.Austell (Matthew Taylor) of rural housing and economic development. The Government agree with his key finding that we need a more subtle appreciation of what makes rural communities sustainable, and that rural communities, as much as urban areas, need to plan for change in the face of new economic, environmental and demographic pressures. In bringing together our policies on economic development in town and country into one policy statement we are emphasising in the rural context what is taken for granted in urban contexts: that economic sustainability is a prerequisite for social and environmental sustainability.

Similarly, we are responding to the thrust of the recommendations made in the advice provided to the Prime Minister by Stuart Burgess, the Rural Advocate. We see both the Rural Advocate's report and the Taylor review as important elements of a growing consensus which recognises the economic opportunities offered by rural areas and the contribution they make to the economy at large.

The draft statement does not include any specific proposals for a 'competition test' that was recommended by the Competition Commission. In June 2008, Tesco PLC challenged the Commission's recommendation in the Competition Appeal Tribunal. In March 2009, the application by Tesco was allowed and the recommendation quashed. The Tribunal unanimously concluded that the Commission, in its report, had failed properly to consider certain matters which were relevant to its recommendation that the competition test be imposed as part of a package of remedies to address the adverse effect on competition identified by the Commission. The Government will await the Competition Commission's reconsideration of the issue before deciding how to proceed.

The proposed changes I am setting out today will play a part in facilitating sustainable economic growth in urban and rural areas and ensuring our town centres thrive for years to come. The consultation closes on 28 July 2009.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Full details of A points adopted at the General Affairs Council can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/107418.pdf

Croatia-Enlargement

The Council took stock of the progress of accession negotiations with Croatia, focusing on the bilateral territorial dispute between Croatia and Slovenia, with the latter blocking the nine chapters ready for opening or closing. Commissioner Rehn briefed on his efforts to find a solution and set out a compromise proposal, which received widespread support.

The presidency called on both sides in the border dispute to show political will and a constructive approach in finding a compromise. They stressed the urgency of the issue and hoped that both sides would be able to respond to the Commission's latest proposal by early May. The Government endorse the presidency's approach and support the efforts of Commissioner Rehn to facilitate a mutually acceptable solution to the territorial dispute so that accession negotiations can move forward.

Employment and Energy Summits

The presidency briefed on the preparations for the 7 May Employment summit and the Southern Corridor summit on 8 May. The aim of the former summit, which the Government support, is to equip the EU's labour markets for future economic recovery.

The Southern Corridor summit will follow up the spring European Council's call for diversification of sources and routes of energy supplies demonstrating the EU's strong political support for the development of the Southern Corridor through concrete actions. It will give a strong message that the EU and Southern Corridor partner countries are prepared to enhance their relations, particularly in the energy and transport fields. The Government strongly welcome the summit and the draft joint declaration.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The full text of Council conclusions (including A points) can be accessed at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsdata/docs/pressdata/en/gena/107419.pdf

Eastern Partnership Summit

The presidency requested high-level representation at the summit, arguing that recent political difficulties in Moldova, Ukraine and elsewhere showed that these countries needed greater EU attention.

European Neighbourhood Policy

Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner presented the 23 April Commission Communication on the implementation of ENP in 2008, and the accompanying set of ENP country progress reports. There was no discussion.

Burma

The presidency announced the adoption of the EU's common position renewing restrictive measures for a further 12 months, which the Government strongly support.

EU Foreign Ministers also adopted conclusions, which the Government also welcome, expressing concern about the human rights situation; underlining the EU's commitment to promoting political, social and economic reform in Burma-Myanmar; and urging the Government of Burma-Myanmar to engage meaningfully with the UN Secretary General's good offices mission.

Sri Lanka

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary thanked Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner for her positive and active engagement. He announced that he would visit Sri Lanka on 29 April to call for urgent action by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to avoid further civilian casualties and avert a humanitarian disaster; inside the conflict zone, civilians remained trapped by the fighting; the reported intimidation and killings by the LTTE were completely unacceptable; outside, internally displaced persons desperately needed full access to humanitarian assistance.

The Council adopted conclusions based on a UK text, which: noted the LTTE's announcement of a unilateral cease-fire; called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire to allow safe evacuation of civilians trapped in the conflict zone; welcomed the reported announcement by GoSL of an end to heavy military operations; welcomed the visit of Sir John Holmes, UN Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs; and repeated calls on GoSL to proceed urgently towards an inclusive and peaceful political process.

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

Discussion focussed on the EU's key messages to the parties. Ministers agreed on the importance of supporting a two-state solution and the integration of the Arab peace initiative, encouraging adherence to road map commitments, in particular on settlements, and urging Israel to open the crossings into Gaza.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stressed the importance of pursuing our existing policy with more vigour and clarity; our focus should be on action not words.

The presidency concluded that there was a consensus behind the EU's overriding message of support for a two-state solution. There were no conclusions.

Migration in the Mediterranean

This item was added to the agenda at the request of Malta and Italy, following a dispute between the two member states concerning the fate of 140 migrants rescued in nearby waters on 16 April. They expressed concerns about the issue of illegal migration across the Mediterranean, pointing out that it was a problem for the EU as a whole.

The UK is equally concerned about the increasing flows of illegal migrants through the Mediterranean region, many of whom transit through Libya before reaching Europe. In the last 12 months there have been approximately 34,000 illegal migrants entering Europe by sea on this route. We are working closely with our European partners, in particular Italy and Malta, to develop an effective framework for co-operation on border control with Libya.

Somalia-Piracy

This was added at Belgium's request following an attack upon a Belgian-flagged merchant vessel by pirates off the Somali coast on 18 April. Ministers discussed the recent surge in pirate activity off the coast of Somalia, and welcomed the positive action being taken by the EU counter-piracy operation ATALANTA in response.

EU-US summit follow-up

Ministers discussed the main issues arising from the recent EU-US summit, in particular Iran and Afghanistan-Pakistan.

High Representative Solana updated on his contacts with the Iranians following the E3+3's invitation to meet them. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary

underlined the need for the EU to adopt a robust approach in support of the US Administration's decision to engage with Iran. Solana agreed that the EU should be ready to act.

Ministers also adopted conclusions on Iran, which the Government welcome, supporting the new direction of US policy; and calling upon Iran to engage seriously with the international community in order to find a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue which will address its national interests, while noting that the evolution of the EU's relations with Iran will also depend on it.

On Afghanistan-Pakistan, High Representative Solana said there was a need for the EU to be more creative on Pakistan. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined the importance of a successful EU-Pakistan Summit in June. The Commission noted its contribution of €40 million (£36 million) to the Afghanistan elections.

Ukraine

The presidency introduced a discussion of the unstable political situation. There were no conclusions.

Moldova

High Representative Solana reported on his visit to Chisinau in the previous week. He said it was important the EU kept engaging with Moldova, through the Eastern Partnership and by negotiating a "New Agreement". Ministers welcomed the efforts of the High Representative, presidency and EU Special Representative in bringing about agreement that the Moldovan Government would enter into a political dialogue with the Opposition, and conduct an inquiry into the human rights abuses that followed the post-election protests. There were no conclusions.

AOB

Durban Review Conference

Some member states expressed concerns about the lack of a co-ordinated EU approach to the Durban review conference. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary encouraged EU engagement in similar fora along with the Africans and others who had supported some of our positions in the negotiations.

Human Rights and Public Diplomacy

The Swedish Foreign Minister put forward proposals for publicising the EU's work on human rights. The presidency agreed to refer the issue to officials for further work.

Swine Influenza

The Commission debriefed Ministers on actions taken in response to the outbreak of swine influenza in Mexico. An extraordinary meeting of Health Ministers would be held on 30 April in Luxembourg.

JUSTICE

Service Personnel (Inquests)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. Our sincere condolences go to the families of the 13 service personnel who have lost their lives in service of their country since the last statement, and our thoughts and prayers remain with all the families whose loved ones have died on operations.

Today, we are announcing the progress that has been made since the Written Ministerial Statement on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 37WS, with information about the conduct of inquests by the Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 27 April.

The tables which accompany this statement again include information about those cases which involve a board of inquiry or a service inquiry.

PROGRESS WITH INQUESTS

At the time of the last statement, we reported that 220 inquests had been held since June 2006: 206 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham.

Since 27 January a further 10 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. This makes a total of 230 inquests held since June 2006.

Since operations commenced in 2001 there have been a total of 254 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including four service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

We remain very grateful for the efforts of all the coroners involved in conducting these inquests and unswerving in our support of the independent coronial system.

Our Departments continue to work closely together, and with the coroners, to review the way in which the system is working and to look for opportunities, prior to the implementation of the coroners' legislation which is currently before Parliament in the Coroners and Justice Bill, to make improvements for the benefit of the bereaved families.

On 17 March the Government tabled amendments to the Coroners and Justice Bill, which will have the effect of enabling fatal accident inquiries to take place in Scotland into the deaths of service personnel killed on operations overseas. This reflects our commitment to support bereaved service families and will mean that families in Scotland will no longer, in most cases, have to travel to England for inquests.

OPEN INQUESTS

i. Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities

The statement in February reported that there was one remaining inquest to be held into a death where the body was repatriated via RAF Brize Norton prior to 31 March 2007—that into the death of Marine Wigley. That remains the position and the inquest will be heard for five days starting on 11 May.

ii. Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests will not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon jurisdiction (since 1 April 2007 fatalities are repatriated via RAF Lyneham). The coroner transfers inquests for service personnel to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible. David Masters retired as the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner on 31 March but his successor, David Ridley, has appointed him as an assistant deputy coroner to ensure that his experience and expertise is retained.

There are 71 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007 (33 involving deaths in the last six months). Of these, Mr Ridley has retained 38 inquests, while 33 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next-of-kin. Inquest hearing dates have been set in 11 of these cases.

iii. Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain three inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries.

We shall continue to keep the House informed about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Library of the House which outline the status of all cases and date of death of each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Treatment Directive (Consultation)

The Minister for Women and Equality (Ms Harriet Harman): We are today beginning a UK consultation on the European Commission proposal for an equal treatment directive. The consultation will end on 28 July 2009. The consultation document seeks views to inform the UK Government's further consideration of a proposed European Commission (EC) directive to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation outside the areas of employment and vocational training.

The UK Government wish to consult in particular on the impact of the draft directive in those areas where their proposals are, or might be, at variance with the current and proposed law, and on the impact of the proposals on individuals, business and others.

The written consultation is being supplemented by a range of discussions with key stakeholders bilaterally and members of the public through public consultation events.

The consultation document is being sent to around 300 organisations and will be available on the website of the Government Equalities Office at: www.equalities.gov.uk/international/eu_directive.aspx

I am also placing copies in the Vote Office and in the Libraries of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 6 May 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Tipping and the National Minimum Wage

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): Today we have announced our response to our consultation regarding the change of regulation relating to the use of service charges, gratuities, tips and cover charges in use in payment of the national minimum wage.

Since the National Minimum Wage Act came into force in 1999, it has created a level playing field for employers in the payment of wages and an essential safety net for vulnerable low-paid workers. Through this we have seen a better rewarded and more committed workforce who have been a force in driving up standards.

Under the 1999 Act, the use of service charges, gratuities, tips and cover charges may count towards payment of the national minimum wage in certain circumstances. Some 10 years on, we believe that the time is right to review this practice to ensure equity for workers in receipt of the national minimum wage and a level playing field in the payment wages among employers.

In July 2008 we announced that we would be amending national minimum wage regulation to prevent the use of tips towards the payment of the national minimum wage. Alongside this we recognised a need for greater transparency for consumers about what is happening to the tips they leave.

We have now consulted on these issues, and we thank all those who responded for their input. The majority of the respondents to our consultation supported the change. Taking this into account and evidence gathered as part of our impact assessment, we believe that now is the right time to make this change. It is our intention that from 1 October 2009 that use of service charges, gratuities, tips and cover charges will be no longer be permitted in payment of the national minimum wage. We will also continue to work with interested parties in developing a way of making information available to consumers. This will include a code of best practice for sectors affected by the change.

I have arranged for copies of the Government's response to the consultation to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Automotive Assistance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): The Government have today agreed to make available a one-off £5 million bridging loan facility to prevent LDV going into administration, and to facilitate the purchase of the company by Weststar of Malaysia.

Weststar's proposed purchase of LDV offers the only credible chance of keeping this manufacturing plant in the UK, sustaining UK jobs and a platform for future model development.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Safeguarding Arrangements (Independent Schools, Non-maintained Special Schools and Boarding Schools)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 24 March I welcomed "Keeping our School Safe", Sir Roger Singleton's review of safeguarding arrangements in independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools in England. His careful and thorough report showed that the current framework generally works well, but that there are elements that need to be reviewed and updated. Since the initial response was published we have considered each recommendation in more detail and consulted schools, Ofsted and the other independent school inspectorates about implementation arrangements. We are grateful for the assistance and support we have received from those organisations that represent schools covered by the review.

We have already accepted all the recommendations in the review, and our initial response set out the immediate steps we were taking to implement those things that could be done straight away. Our more detailed response published today sets out specific time scales and steps that we will take to ensure that, over time, every recommendation is considered carefully and implemented in a way that realises safeguarding benefits without imposing undue complexity, cost and bureaucracy. We will continue to work closely with key stakeholders in implementing the plan, to ensure that the strengthened arrangements set out in the report are realised collaboratively and in a way that recognises the diversity of the independent school, non-maintained special school and boarding school sectors.

Copies of our detailed response have been laid in the Library of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Laming Report

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Today the Government are publishing a comprehensive action plan in response to Lord Laming's report, "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report".

Ministers announced to Parliament on 12 November that we had asked Lord Laming to prepare an independent report of progress being made in the delivery of arrangements to protect children, and to identify any barriers to effective, consistent implementation and how these might be overcome. On 12 March, Lord Laming published his report which the Government welcomed and to which we responded immediately, accepting all his recommendations and taking swift, decisive action to begin to take them forward.

Lord Laming's report confirmed that robust legislative, structural and policy foundations are in place and that there is a widespread consensus that our "Every Child Matters" reforms set the right direction. He underlined the progress that has been made and the positive difference that people working with children, particularly those most at risk, are making every day. But he was also clear that there needs to be "a step change in the arrangements to protect children from harm". He challenged us all—central Government, local government, national and local partners, and the public—to do more.

Lord Laming's report set out a comprehensive set of recommendations to ensure best practice is universally applied in every area of the country, to strengthen national and local leadership and accountability, and to provide more support to local leaders and for the front-line work force. The Government began immediately to act on his recommendations:

We appointed Sir Roger Singleton, from 1 April, as the first ever Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children to advise Government on strategic priorities and the effective implementation of safeguarding policy.

We committed to establishing a new National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to drive continuous improvement in front-line practice across all services, and provide support and challenge to every local authority and every Children's Trust as they fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

We confirmed that we would revise the statutory guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children", to reflect Lord Laming's recommendations to strengthen policy and practice, including in relation to serious case reviews.

We announced that we would strengthen the challenge role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), clarify the relationship between Children's Trusts and LSCBs, and that LSCBs should in future be independently chaired.

We committed to opening up the child protection system to greater public scrutiny by requiring every LSCB in the country to appoint two members of the general public to its board.

We announced immediate measures to improve support for front-line social workers, address recruitment and retention, and to begin to raise the morale of the profession.

We appointed Francis Plowden to lead an independent review into court fees in public law cases brought under the Children Act 1989 to establish whether they are a barrier to social workers taking legal action to ensure the safety of a child.

We confirmed that we would be reviewing the range of safeguarding targets and publish a new framework for safeguarding targets in autumn 2009.

Today's action plan sets out the Government's detailed response to Lord Laming's report, addressing every one of his 58 recommendations, to deliver the step change which he has called for. Sir Roger Singleton has advised us on the development of this action plan and has written to me welcoming our response to Lord Laming and setting out his future role and priorities as Chief Adviser. Sir Roger will submit his first annual report to Parliament, reporting on progress nationally including the delivery of the actions we are setting out today, in April 2010. I am establishing a new ministerial sub-group of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Children, Young People and Families which will meet quarterly, with Sir Roger, to keep progress under review.

Sir Roger has announced an expert group to support him in his role as Chief Adviser and he will work with us to establish the new cross-Government national safeguarding delivery unit which will be operational by July 2009. We will also be establishing a partnership network to work with the unit and the Chief Adviser to pursue specific issues impacting on effective front-line safeguarding practice.

Earlier this year, we established the Social Work Task Force to carry out a nuts and bolts review to boost the confidence and capacity of the social work profession. The Task Force is today publishing its initial advice. It covers how we should implement Lord Laming's recommendations on social work, how we should reform the Integrated Children's System, and the key challenges which the Task Force sees in reforming and renewing the social work profession over the coming months.

I strongly welcome the Task Force's advice. We are already investing £73 million in social work reform and I am announcing today a new £58 million 'Social Work Transformation Fund' to provide an immediate boost for social work training and support as well as recruitment and retention, with a particular focus on those new to the profession by:

Sponsoring 200 university places from September so that the brightest and highest achieving graduates, from any discipline, can sign up to conversion courses to become part of the social work profession.

A new recruitment campaign specifically targeting potential returnees to give the current work force a boost from qualified social workers who may have left the profession. The campaign will start this month with former social workers able to access information online, and from July, through a new helpline to help social workers link up to LAs with vacant posts. Our aim is that there should be 500 social workers back in the workplace as early as this autumn, supported by refresher training where they need it.

Rolling out the successful newly qualified social workers (NQSW) pilots so that all new social workers joining statutory and voluntary services this September, and all overseas children's qualified social workers who need it, can receive high quality supervision and protected time for training to support them in becoming confident and competent in their first year of practice.

Funding a new practice-based masters in social work to start in early 2011 so that social workers can continue to further knowledge, skills and expertise.

A new advanced social work professional status programme to create senior practice-focused roles to keep excellent and experienced social workers in children's services. LAs working with the CWDC will begin assessing candidates in October so that they can be in post and start making a difference on the frontline by early next year.

Keeping children and young people safe is our top priority and it must be the responsibility of us all. Today's action plan confirms this Government's commitment to implementing Lord Laming's recommendations and our determination to do everything possible to make the arrangements in this country for protecting children the best in the world.

Copies of the Action Plan, advice from the Social Work Task Force and Sir Roger Singleton's letter to me are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

South East Plan (RSS)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is publishing today the "South East Plan", the revised Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East of England.

The South East Plan forms part of the statutory development plan for every local authority in the region and sets the framework for the production of local development frameworks and local transport plans. It is the spatial plan for the development of the region, and provides the policy framework for employment, housing, transport and the environment. The South East Plan is crucial to delivering the Government's sustainable communities and growth agenda in the region.

The Regional Spatial Strategy replaces Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) which was issued in 2001. It also replaces a number of partial reviews to RPG9 that were carried out since 2001. The single exception is that the Part A Statement of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy issued in March 2005 continues to apply. In the event of any conflict, the more recent document will take precedence.

A draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy was submitted to Government in March 2006 by the South East England regional assembly. This was tested by an independent panel at an examination in public (EiP) that was held between November 2006 and March 2007. The EiP panel's report was published in August 2007. Based on the panel's recommendations, the Government Office for the south-east issued the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the draft RSS in July 2008 and the public consultation closed in October 2008. During the consultation 13,654 comments were made by 5,672 people and organisations. In addition, a 1,700-name petition was submitted.

We have considered all of these representations. We have decided that no further major policy changes are required, although amendments and clarifications have been made to various parts of the plan. The result in terms of housing provision is that 32,700 dwellings are to be planned for annually compared with 33,125 dwellings in the proposed changes document and 28,900 in the draft plan.

The plan therefore represents a step towards addressing housing need in the south- east though falls short of what is likely to be required in the longer term to meet the Government's Housing Green Paper target. I am pleased that the South East England Partnership Board are committed to carrying out a further review of the plan to consider housing growth, including taking account of latest evidence and eco-towns.

Copies of the South East Plan are available in the Library of the House and have been provided for all the region's MPs and MEPs. Copies will be sent today to all local authorities and the South East England Partnership Board. Hundreds of other stakeholders will be informed of how to obtain a copy.

FiReControl

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I wish to inform the House about the latest development on the FiReControl project, which will establish a resilient network of nine regional fire control centres across England.

I have today published the consolidated FiReControl Business Case which sets out the detailed, evidence-based rationale for investing public money in the FiReControl project. It is particularly important in the current economic climate that we are confident that any investment is justified and will bring about real beneficial change. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

The business case considers the strategic, economic, financial, commercial and project management cases for this investment in resilience and confirms value for money. It also sets out key information at the regional level, with nine regional annexes, each covering one of the English regions.

This business case has been subject to considerable consultation with a range of interested stakeholders. We received responses from all English regions and we have considered, in detail, these formal consultation responses. This feedback identified a number of areas that required further development, which we have addressed through further professional analysis and direct engagement with the fire and rescue service community, the Chief Fire Officers Association and the Local Government Association.

The headline messages from this analysis demonstrates that: the total project costs, which will be met by central Government, have stabilised at £380 million; the project will deliver greatly enhanced capability to the fire and rescue service at no additional cost to fire and rescue authorities; and national Government will support the fire and rescue service directly through annual FiReControl payments totalling £8.2 million once the network is up-and-running, which will be subject to a three-year review.

Taken together with the other elements of the Fire and Resilience Programme—the Firelink radio communications system and the New Dimension equipment—we believe that this provides a powerful platform for the modernisation of the fire and rescue service. We are committed to supporting the fire and rescue service to meet the challenges they face, now and in the future, to enable them to continue providing a world-class service.

DEFENCE

Maritime Change Programme

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The Government announced their decision in 2007 to retain but optimise all three of Her Majesty's Naval Bases (Clyde, Devonport and Portsmouth) signalling the Government's intention to drive forward a programme of change to shape the maritime industrial and operational landscape into the next decade; this work is known as the Maritime Change Programme. I am now in a position to provide an update to the House.

As we have already announced, it is our intention that HM Naval Base Portsmouth will be the home port for the new Type 45 Destroyers and the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers. Subject to main investment decisions to be made early in the next decade, the most complex war fighting variant of the next generation of Royal Naval frigates—the Future Surface Combatant—will be base-ported in Portsmouth to maximise the benefits of the common systems and equipment also fitted to the Type 45s and Carriers. The strategic decisions being taken as part of the Maritime Change Programme pave the way for Portsmouth to become, in the longer-term,

the main operating base for our most complex warships. In addition to providing Fleet Time Engineering Support for these vessels and the eight Hunt Class Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Portsmouth will undertake sufficient Deep Maintenance activity on an occasional basis to sustain the capability of key skills.

I can confirm that HM Naval Base Devonport will be the main operating base for Amphibious Shipping, Survey and Hydrographic vessels, for the Type 22 frigates and, for at least the next five years, for seven of the Type 23 frigates. Work will be undertaken to look carefully at the nature of the less complex Future Surface Combatant variants and to consider the optimal base-porting arrangements for these vessels, taking account of similarities with existing classes. This work will help determine whether there is any case to change the base-porting of the Type 23 frigates. Devonport will also continue to provide world class sea training through Flag Officer Sea Training and will undertake Fleet Time Engineering support for base-ported ships and for visiting sea training vessels. Devonport will also retain and, subject to commercial negotiations, enhance its position as the centre of excellence for Surface Ship and Submarine Deep maintenance activity. Finally, subject to ongoing approvals, we will develop Devonport as the centre of specialisation for Amphibious Operations by moving 1 Assault Group Royal Marines, including the Landing Craft of 10 training Squadron and 539 Assault Squadron currently at Poole and Turnchapel, to Devonport.

Following on from that, HM Naval Base Clyde will become the main operating base for all classes of submarines, including the future classes of submarines, such as the replacement for the Vanguard Class, and eight Sandown Class Mine Counter Measure Vessels. Fleet Time Engineering support for these vessels will also be undertaken at Clyde. To reduce duplication of facilities and to provide future stability for submarine personnel, we intend to accelerate the move towards a single submarine operating base some six years earlier than originally planned, although there will be no base-porting changes for around five years. This decision will see three of the Trafalgar Class submarines transfer their base port to HM Naval Base Clyde upon completion of their respective mid-commission major maintenance periods. This is currently expected to be by 2017, while four will remain at HM Naval Base Devonport until their planned decommissioning dates (currently 2010 to 2017). We will ensure that the necessary infrastructure to support this move will be put in place.

The ISOLUS Project, which is the work under way to develop the solution for the dismantling and recycling of our nuclear submarines, continues to make good progress. We remain committed to complying with legislation and Government policy and will be conducting further research, assessments and consultation before any final recommendations are made. We are on track to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment later this year, including a period of public consultation. After the Strategic Environmental Assessment it is also our intention to establish a demonstrator programme to optimise the process to dismantle and recycle as much material as feasibly possible from our submarines after they have left Royal Navy service, and to examine issues such as how to reuse the reclaimed material in the future. It has been decided, after consultation with stakeholder groups, that the project will be renamed the Submarine Dismantling Project to reflect more accurately the scope and future direction of our work in this important area. I expect the next announcement, outlining the proposed dismantling and storage solution, to be made in 2010.

In summary, this suite of decisions seeks to provide clarity and remove uncertainty as far as is possible for many of our stakeholders, including our people and their families, industrial partners and those communities local to the naval bases.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Products Committee

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jane Kennedy): I have received the annual report of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-Committees for 2008, which has been published today.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am pleased to acknowledge the valuable work done by the distinguished members of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-Committees and thank them for the time and effort dedicated in the public interest to this important work.

HOME DEPARTMENT

National Identity Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Shahid Malik): The sixth Cost Report of the National Identity Service is being laid before Parliament today. It sets out an estimate of the public expenditure likely to be incurred on the service over the next 10 years, in accordance with section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. It reports on developments over the past six months, since the fifth Cost Report was published on 6 November 2008. Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

In addition the House will wish to know that we are also publishing today the following three statements: "The National Identity Service: Delivery Update:2009"; Identity Cards Act Secondary Legislation: a Response to the Consultation"; and " Identity Cards Act Secondary Legislation: an Impact Assessment". Copies of these documents will be placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Prison Service Pay Review Body

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I am pleased to announce that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has re-appointed Dr. Henrietta Campbell for two years, and Richard Childs and Joseph Magee for three years as members of the Prison Service Pay Review Body, commencing April 2009. The re-appointments

have been conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance on appointments to public bodies.

Archival Services

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I am today publishing a consultation document, "Archives for the 21st Century", asking for views on the Government's proposed new policy for archival services.

Archive services contribute greatly to a modern democratic society: they are the custodians of the nation's collective memory and an integral part of a healthy democracy. A high proportion of our archival heritage is held by nearly 300 publicly funded archive services within local authorities and universities. Their core mission is to acquire and preserve records from a wide range of sources relating to a particular local or specialist topic and to make these as accessible as possible for public use.

The consultation document sets out the Government's vision for a vibrant archival sector, one that works closely with and supports the communities served and that maximises opportunities to make archives accessible to an even wider range of people. It also seeks to build the foundations for a more sustainable future for the sector, responding to the challenges of the digital information age.

The Government are seeking views on the main proposals to help meet these challenges. They are:

working towards increased sustainability within the sector through the integration and collaboration of services;

strengthened leadership and a more responsive, skilled workforce;

a co-ordinated response to the growing challenge of managing digital information so that it is accessible now and remains discoverable in the future;

comprehensive online access for archive discovery through catalogues and to digitised archive content by citizens at a time and place that suits them; and

active participation in cultural and learning partnerships promoting a sense of identity and place within the community.

This consultation, which closes on 12 August 2009, is accompanied by impact and equality assessments. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It can also be accessed via the National Archives website at:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives consultation

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 7 May 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

All-party Parliamentary Beer Group Community Pub Inquiry

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): I have written today to the chair of the all-party parliamentary beer group to respond to the community pub inquiry and have placed copies of the response in the Library of the House.

The response has involved careful consideration by nine Government Departments and other bodies such as the Local Better Regulations Office (LBRO) and the Government are pleased to have been able to accept in full, in part or in intent, 23 of the 31 recommendations for Government. The Government believe that the response is a good start in responding to the concerns highlighted by the inquiry, the wider campaign and the public support for the Community Pub. The Government will continue to work with the industry, local communities and their representatives on the full range of issues and hopes that the APPBG will continue to press the case for community pubs inside Parliament.

Hard copies of the report are available in the Vote and Printed Paper Offices and will be available on the DCMS website at: http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6137.aspx

DEFENCE

Programme Belvedere

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I wish to inform the House today of the decision to close Programme Belvedere—the study into possible rationalisation of the Joint Helicopter Command's Battlefield Helicopter Estate.

During this complex study, the main bases under consideration were Royal Air Force Odiham, RAF Benson, Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton, Wattisham Station and Dishforth Airfield. Some other airfields were also considered including RAF Lyneham, in the light of the previously announced decisions to relocate C130 aircraft from there to RAF Brize Norton.

Programme Belvedere has been a complex and lengthy study taking into account a large number of factors including:

operating issues including aircraft numbers, command and control and flying hours;

environmental issues including noise;

availability and standard of domestic and technical accommodation;

accessibility for aircraft and vehicle types;

aircraft capacity of the airfield;

opportunities for efficiencies and rationalisation;

airfield location—low flying areas, training areas and local communities;

future requirements; and,

affordability and value for money.

It is now apparent that efficiencies that could be achieved from a major rationalisation programme would not produce the necessary return on the significant investment that would be required to implement change. We have therefore decided that to continue Programme Belvedere does not represent best value for money for the Department and the programme is to close with immediate effect.

This means that there is no change at this stage to the current arrangements whereby Chinook helicopters are based at RAF Odiham; Puma and Merlin helicopters are based at RAF Benson; Apache helicopters are based at Wattisham; the Joint Helicopter Command operates the Lynx helicopter from Dishforth; and its Commando Helicopter Force, comprising Sea King and Lynx helicopters, operates from RNAS Yeovilton.

This decision also means that RAF Lyneham is no longer under consideration as a basing option for the Joint Helicopter Command. The then Minister for the Armed Forces, my right hon. Friend, the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) announced on 4 July 2003, *Official Report*, column 38WS, that following movement of the C130 fleet to RAF Brize Norton, "if no further defence use is identified for Royal Air Force Lyneham, the station will be closed and disposed of". On current plans the C130K and C130J fleets will move from RAF Lyneham to RAF Brize Norton in summer 2011. The transfer is planned to complete to enable the Royal Air Force to vacate RAF Lyneham by the end of 2012. It now seems unlikely that a further use will be identified for the site.

It is too early to say exactly what the impact will be for civilian staff at the station but the trade unions have been kept informed and my officials will engage with them and the local authorities around RAF Lyneham to ensure we do everything possible to support our people and to manage the draw-down sensitively. Meanwhile, RAF Lyneham continues to play a key role in supporting current operations through the provision of strategic and tactical airlift, and I am deeply grateful to staff at the station for their service, and to the local population for their support.

Further work is being undertaken to determine the optimum basing arrangements for the Future Lynx helicopter, and I shall keep the House informed about progress.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 30 April to discuss the influenza A/H1N1 infection. I represented the United Kingdom.

At the meeting Ministers received reports on the situation from the Director of the European Centre for Disease Control and the World Health Organisation

(WHO). The EU Health Commissioner, Androulla Vassiliou, stressed the importance of continued co-operation at the EU and international level.

The Council unanimously adopted conclusions welcoming the effective response to the outbreak so far and reaffirming member states commitment to continue their co-operative work through existing EU structures. The member states agreed to continue to act together to respond to the threat, under the guidance of the WHO, including taking appropriate measures to protect public health.

The conclusions noted the Council's willingness, with the Commission, to engage with, and assist, non-EU countries most affected by the virus.

Thanks to the leadership of the WHO and due to our established emergency preparedness structures at EU level, we are well prepared to act in response to this outbreak.

HOME DEPARTMENT

DNA Database Consultation

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): On 16 December 2008, I announced that I would bring forward proposals to implement the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of S and Marper.

I am pleased to announce today the commencement of the public consultation exercise to keep the right people on the DNA database through the retention, use and governance of DNA and fingerprints. Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

The European Court found that the "blanket and indiscriminate" retention policy for DNA and fingerprints breached Article 8. We, of course, accept the judgment of the Court. But we also accept the Court's recognition of the importance of using DNA and fingerprints to tackle and prevent crime, terrorism and ensure public protection. Public protection has been our key priority in developing these proposals. The proposals focus on achieving a proportionate balance between allowing the police to effectively detect, investigate and deal with offenders while ensuring that appropriate safeguards and protections are available to the individual. To achieve that balance, I am proposing changes in five key areas.

First I am proposing that all samples are destroyed. This involves both existing samples held by the police and, in future, a requirement that samples must be destroyed no later than six months from the date on which they were taken.

Second, profiles for persons arrested but not convicted may only be retained for a maximum period of six years. Thereafter they must be automatically removed. The profile of a person arrested for an offence in relation to violent, sexual or terrorist offences would be retained for 12 years and thereafter automatically removed. Any offending or further arrest within that timeline will result in a new period of six or 12 years as appropriate being applied. These time scales are based on groundbreaking research by the Jill Dando Institute.

Third, young people aged under 18 years old may be involved in crime during their developing years, but for many it is an isolated incident. That is why I am setting out proposals which would allow the DNA of a person arrested and convicted of minor offences to be removed from the database on reaching 18 years old. For those arrested and not convicted of any further offences, the profiles will be deleted after six years or on their eighteenth birthday, whichever is sooner. I have already requested those under 10 to be removed from the database. That has been done.

Fourth, in terms of openness and transparency, I am proposing that the criteria for destruction of profiles and fingerprints before expiry of the six year or 12 year period should be set out in regulations, and not just police guidance as at present. This would enable people to know whether or not they would qualify to make such an application to their local chief constable. People would also be able to judicially review the decision of the chief constable if they disagreed with his/her decision. I am also proposing that an independent advisory panel is established to monitor implementation of the regulations.

Lastly, I indicated in December 2008 that we need to make sure that those who should be on the database, are on the database. That is why I have included proposals extending police powers to take samples and fingerprints following conviction. The proposals also outline powers to change the law to include those serious violent and sexual offenders who are now back in the community and so that UK citizens or residents who commit offences overseas involving violence or sexual matters have their DNA taken upon return to the UK.

The approach I am putting forward for consideration is about implementing the judgment and applying the scope provided for in the judgment to ensure public protection and enhance individual safeguards.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent Monitoring Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have received the 21st Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report has been made under Articles 4 and 7 of the International Agreement that established the Commission and it reports on levels of paramilitary activity in Northern Ireland. I have considered the content of the report and I am today bringing it before Parliament. I have placed copies in the Library of the House.

Although falling outside their reporting period, the IMC comment on the murders of Constable Stephen Carroll, Sappers Mark Quinsey and Patrick Azimkar, and the wounding of others at the beginning of March. They note the involvement of dissident republicans in these murders and attribute the current ongoing violence to an attempt to destroy the peace process. They will comment on these cases in their next report, due in October 2009.

Dissident republicans pose a serious challenge. They are small but dangerous criminal factions who are determined to drag Northern Ireland back to the past. Their actions have no significant support in the community. There is an overwhelming common purpose against them. The political process continues to work for the benefit of Northern Ireland through the Assembly and Executive. Dissidents will not be able to derail the progress made. The completion of devolution will do more than anything to undermine the dissidents and will provide a firm foundation for Northern Ireland to move forward.

The IMC report also comments on Loyalist organisations. They report that there are some signs that the UDA are now facing the challenge of the

decommissioning of weapons, and that some of the leadership of the UVF increasingly recognise that the organisation must tackle decommissioning.

I made clear in February this year that I have asked the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning for a further report on progress towards decommissioning in August this year. If there has not been substantial progress I will return to Parliament and bring an end to the decommissioning amnesty period earlier than the current February 2010 deadline.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 8 May 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Temporary Agency Workers Directive

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): Following my statement of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 32WS, I am today launching a consultation on the implementation of the Directive on conditions for temporary (agency) workers—Directive 2008/104/EC—the "Agency Workers Directive", which was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 5 December 2008. Copies of the consultation paper, which includes a copy of the Directive, are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government intend if possible to introduce the necessary legislation (regulations under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972) in this current parliamentary session.

The aim of the Directive is to ensure the protection of temporary agency workers by applying the principle of equal treatment, as set out in article 5—that the basic working and employment conditions (duration of working time, overtime, breaks, rest periods, night work, holidays and public holidays and pay) of temporary agency workers shall be, for the duration of their assignment at a hirer at least those that would apply if they had been recruited directly by that undertaking to occupy the same job. There are also other entitlements that aim to improve the situation for agency workers in other areas, for example, in terms of improved access to permanent employment and training. In order to liberalise the agency worker sector across the EU, the Directive also seeks to address restrictions and prohibitions on agency work which exist in many member states to see if they are justified.

Importantly, the Government secured text in the Directive allowing for a qualifying period before equal treatment is applicable, if this is provided for via an agreement between "social partners at national level". This allows implementation on the basis of the agreement reached between the CBI and the TUC on 20 May 2008, under which agency workers will have an entitlement to equal treatment in relation to the basic working and employment conditions after 12 weeks in a given job. The consultation document makes clear the Government's intention to follow this approach on this key point, and also sets out proposals or invites views on a range of other matters on which decisions are required to inform UK implementation

Agency work is a valued route into employment and there are currently around 1.3 million agency workers on temporary assignments across the UK in a range of public and private sector roles, playing a vital role in enabling employers to respond flexibly to changing business needs. In line with the Government's twin objective of ensuring appropriate protections for agency workers while maintaining a flexible labour market, we support the principle in the Directive of ensuring fairer treatment for agency workers along with maintaining the combination of flexibility for workers and employers provided by the agency sector.

This consultation will run for 12 weeks, until 31 July 2009, after which we will publish the Government's response. In line with normal practice for a change of this kind, we then intend to conduct a further consultation on the draft regulations, and to invite views on what practical advice users would welcome in the accompanying guidance.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I am today announcing a programme of action to help the people of Stoke-on-Trent restore to the city the good city governance necessary to respond successfully to the challenges Stoke faces today and to promote the city's future prosperity.

As the Independent Governance Commission found last year, Stoke-on-Trent is a city with a damaged political system and deep-seated malaise in its politics.

The Governance Commission recognised that Parliament had legislated to abolish the mayor and council manager governance model that the city had adopted. It made 14 recommendations to be taken forward alongside this fundamental change to Stoke's governance arrangements. The cornerstone of these recommendations is for Stoke-on-Trent to have a fresh start and clearer, more stable political leadership with whole council elections.

In early June, the old governance arrangements in Stoke will end and—as a result of a local referendum—new arrangements with the council electing a leader from among its members will replace the mayoral leadership. Despite accepting the Commission's recommendations, the council have failed to progress the Commission's key recommendations including the recommendation for whole council elections.

Government action and support are therefore now needed to help put Stoke-on-Trent's governance on a sound basis for the future and rebuild the public's confidence.

Accordingly, we are minded to intervene to make an order under section 86 of the Local Government Act 2000 specifying a scheme of whole council elections for Stoke-on-Trent city council from 2011. Before taking a final decision on the order we are allowing a short "soundings" period until the 18 June to provide an opportunity for interested parties to make representations to us.

We are adopting this approach having regard to the evidence presented by the Governance Commission, who judge that a move to whole council elections will materially strengthen the operation of local democracy in Stoke-on-Trent. This is reinforced by the Electoral Commission's report on "The Cycle of Local Government

Elections in England" which presents a compelling case for simplifying electoral cycles, concluding that the balance of evidence suggests that whole council elections are more likely to provide clarity to electors and stability to the council.

It will be important for this new start that the Governance Commission's recommendation on reducing the size of the council is in place before 2011, together with new electoral arrangements necessary for facilitating effective and convenient local government. I am today therefore asking the Electoral Commission to respond to the Governance Commission's recommendations and direct the Boundary Committee to undertake now an electoral review in Stoke-on-Trent, the results of which would be implemented in the 2011 elections.

The aim is that by the 2011 elections there is a realistic prospect of a revitalised political system and strengthened civic life in Stoke-on-Trent. To enable the focus of all to be on this 2011 new start and while this electoral review is being conducted, we are also minded to include in the order provision to cancel the 2010 elections for the city council. Those members of the council whose term of office is due to end in May 2010 would have their term extended by a year to 2011.

Subject to consideration of any representations we receive, our intention is to make the order as soon as practicable after 18 June.

To reinforce this new start, the Leadership Centre for Local Government have agreed to work with the council, supporting the recruitment of talented, dynamic, and diverse candidates to seek election to the council, thereby helping to revitalise and strengthen the politics of Stoke-on-Trent.

We are also providing support to strengthen civic life in Stoke-on-Trent. The council will receive funding to become a Take Part pathfinder, and participate in the expanded LINks programme that will support the development of civic engagement.

In addition to these steps that the Government can take, it remains important for the council itself to implement the other recommendations of the Governance Commission including the recommendation for reviewing councillors pay and cutting the number of councillors receiving special responsibility allowances (SRAs). The independent city council remuneration panel has now recommended that the number of SRAs be reduced from 42 currently to 23. The council needs to implement such a reduction as a matter of urgency, if the people of Stoke are to regain confidence in their elected representatives.

Rebuilding the politics of Stoke is essential if the significant service improvements achieved by the officers of Stoke, supported by the Stoke excellence board are to be safeguarded and continued. Accordingly, we will expand the external officer support group to help support the council's senior officers in the transitional period during which the politics of Stoke are being rebuilt.

In addition, I am strengthening the transition board to support both the good governance of the city of Stoke-on-Trent and the continued improvement in the council's delivery of local services. This will act as the governance and performance transition board. It will continue to be chaired by Professor Michael Clarke and to reinforce it with sector support I am also appointing Councillor Ken Taylor (Coventry), Councillor Stephen Houghton (Barnsley), Paul Sheehan (chair of West Midlands Regional Improvement And Efficiency Partnership) and Trudi Elliott regional director of GOWM.

The Government are committed to giving the people of Stoke-on-Trent and the city all the support they can. Over recent years the Government have invested some £690 million in Stoke-on-Trent, including on regeneration projects, housing sector renewal and improving college campuses. We have already announced further planned future investment of £500 million which includes the major BSF programme, investment in the university hospital and on housing market renewal.

And I can today announce that the Government have identified £40 million from the Homes and Communities Agency to back regeneration work in Stoke and North Staffordshire, including the City Waterside project which will transform the city centre so that residents and visitors can enjoy new walkways, canal side café's, and open spaces. This investment will provide a new focus for development in the heart of the city. This project is promoted by the North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership and I will support the partnership in its proposals to change the constitutional arrangements to replace the mayor with the appointment of a new private sector chair to push forward essential economic development and regeneration projects like City Waterside for the new Stoke-on-Trent.

The west midlands regional Minister, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin), takes a close interest in Stoke, working to support the city alongside the lead officers in the main organisations operating in the area, including Advantage west midlands, Home and Communities Agency, Job Centre Plus, Learning and Skills Council, Strategic Health Authority, Highways Agency, GOWM, West Midlands LGA. This strong support from the regional Minister and agencies will continue.

The people of Stoke-on-Trent deserve a city which is well governed, with high quality public services, successful economic regeneration, and improved quality of life for all. I believe that the steps we are now taking provide the best possible opportunity for the people of Stoke-on-Trent to achieve this.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration Appeals

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today publishing, in conjunction with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice), the Government's response to our consultation "Immigration Appeals: Fair Decisions, Faster Justice", published in August last year. Copies of our response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government intend to transfer the functions of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal into the First-tier and Upper Tribunal, to ensure that the system is fairer and faster, and that its decisions are respected and final. This will mean replacing the existing High Court review stage with an appeal to the Upper Tribunal, which will speed up the process significantly. The pressure on the

administrative court will also be dramatically reduced, which will free up time to deliver justice for other users of the court.

Although the benefits of the unified tribunal system will apply to all immigration appeals, the response we are publishing today also includes a number of measures which focus on asylum cases. Taken together, we expect these measures will ensure that 90 per cent. of asylum applications have either been granted or have exhausted their appeal rights within 18 weeks. This is a significant improvement over the current system, where it can take up to 42 weeks for cases to reach this stage.

The proposals in our consultation stemmed from a small working group chaired by Lin Homer, chief executive of the UK Border Agency and Lord Justice Richards, a Court of Appeal judge. I am grateful to the members of the working group for their valuable insight and to all those who responded to the consultation. We have taken their comments on board and they are reflected in our response.

Animals (Scientific Procedures)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Shahid Malik): I have today published a consultation paper seeking views on the European Commission's proposal published on 10 November 2008 for a directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The proposed directive will replace Directive 86/609/EEC on which current United Kingdom legislation—the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986—is based.

The Government welcome the publication of the European Commission's proposal for a revised directive. We support the Commission's aim to harmonise the regulation of animal experimentation across the European Union. We also support measures to promote high welfare standards for laboratory animals and to promote the development and use of alternatives. At the same time we believe it is vital that regulation properly balances the protection of animals and the legitimate needs of science and industry while maintaining public confidence that animals are not allowed to suffer unnecessarily.

The consultation paper seeks views on the detailed and technical provisions of the draft directive with a view to informing the formal United Kingdom negotiating position. The consultation closes on 3 July 2009.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

PRIME MINISTER

Information Commissioner

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Her Majesty the Queen has approved the appointment of Mr. Christopher Graham as the next Information Commissioner with effect from 29 June 2009 for a period of five years. Mr. Graham will replace the present Commissioner, Richard Thomas, when he retires from the post on 28 June 2009.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 11 May 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Trade Unionists (Blacklisting)

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Government firmly believe that the blacklisting of trade unionists has no place in a modern system of employment relations. Individuals should not be systematically and secretly victimised for their trade union membership and for engaging in the activities of a trade union.

Section 3 of the Employment Relations Act 1999 contains a power for the Secretary of State to introduce regulations prohibiting the compilation, dissemination and use of lists of trade union members or activists drawn up with the purpose of discrimination in relation to their recruitment and treatment by employers or employment agencies.

We consulted on draft regulations in 2003 but they were not implemented. We took that decision because it was then widely believed that blacklisting of this type had been eradicated in the UK. Following the investigation of the Information Commissioner into the affairs of the Consulting Association (TCA) renewed evidence has come to light. The investigation showed that, within the construction industry, a covert vetting system has operated. My officials have worked closely with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) during its investigation and they have examined the detailed information which the ICO seized from the TCA. We have discovered that much of the information held by the TCA concerned the trade union activities of individuals and gave a very unfavourable account of their suitability for employment.

In the light of these developments, the Government are minded to introduce regulations under section 3 of the 1999 Act. To ensure we have drafted them correctly and taken account of subsequent developments, BERR will launch a short public consultation early this summer seeking views on revised regulations. We will then seek parliamentary approval of the final draft regulations this autumn, bringing them into effect at the earliest opportunity thereafter. This abuse needs to be addressed as a matter of priority and our aim is to ensure that suitably drafted regulations are implemented with the minimum of delay.

TREASURY

Investment Banks (Insolvency)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): As indicated in both the pre-Budget report and the Budget, the Government are conducting a detailed review of the arrangements surrounding the insolvency of investment banks. Today I am publishing the Government's first consultation document on this issue. This document sets out the Government's preliminary thinking on possible market, regulatory or legislative changes that may be considered in respect of future insolvencies in the investment banking sector. The paper covers issues relating to trading, clearing and settlement, to client assets and monies, and to the resolution of investment firms in difficulty. Copies of the document entitled: "Developing Effective Resolution Arrangements for Investment Banks" have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the HM Treasury website.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Safer School Partnerships

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Today my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and I are announcing the publication of "Safer School Partnerships Guidance".

In the "Youth Crime Action Plan" published in July last year, we said that we wanted to encourage the foundation of more Safer School Partnerships (SSPs), so that they become the norm rather than the exception. SSPs, an important part of neighbourhood policing, have a central role to play in supporting the triple track approach of enforcement, prevention and support on which the action plan is based. Taking early action to ensure pupil safety and to prevent young people from being drawn into crime or antisocial behaviour is important for all pupils and for all schools. And every school—not just those in high crime areas or which have serious issues of antisocial behaviour or offending among its pupils—should consider establishing an SSP.

This publication provides guidance to support that aim. Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Library.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regeneration (England)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): I am today publishing "Transforming Places; Changing Lives: Taking Forward the Regeneration Framework". This follows the consultation document I launched last July that looked at the way regeneration is carried out in England.

Since that time the economic downturn has had a significant impact on regeneration activity. This is not just having an impact upon physical developments; but also on the lives of people living across the country through jobs and homes that have been lost and the strain that it places on communities.

This document responds to these challenges and sets out a strategic framework for regeneration, supported by measures to target investment; deliver increased flexibility for front-line agencies; and clear leadership—setting

out a vision of the outcomes we expect regeneration to deliver now and in the future.

The framework aims to ensure that regeneration investment is:

more tightly focused on economic outcomes and worklessness;

driven at the right spatial level—and as close to communities as is practicable, making the most of opportunities that already exist;

targeted—not trying to transform everywhere—but investing where it will have most impact by supporting those communities where the most severe poverty and worklessness persists and where there is the opportunity to deliver long-term change.

The framework sets out three success measures—against which all regeneration should be judged in future. These are:

improving economic performance, particularly in the most deprived areas;

creating the right conditions for business growth though improved infrastructure, and use of land, and a better public realm; and

creating places where people want to live and can work and businesses want to invest.

The framework is accompanied by an impact assessment. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses or it can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: www.communities.gov.uk/citiesandregions/

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth and Culture Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Barbara Follett): The Education, Youth and Culture Council will be held on 11 and 12 May in Brussels. Andy Lebrecht, UK deputy permanent representative, will be representing the UK on 12 May when culture and audiovisual issues will be taken.

The first item on the agenda concerns the Council conclusions on culture as a catalyst for creativity and innovation. The conclusions successfully draw the link between culture and the Lisbon objectives and also reflect the role of creativity in responding to the economic crisis. This year also celebrates the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. I intend to support the adoption of these conclusions.

The Council will be invited to adopt a decision on the selection of two member states with a view to the nomination by the Council of two experts in the selection panel for the European Capital of Culture Community action 2010-12. The presidency will also seek the adoption of decisions on the selection of cities to host the European Capital of Culture events for 2012 and 2013. Portugal and Slovenia are the EU member states nominating cites for 2012 and have put forward Guimarães and Maribor respectively.

France and Slovakia are nominating cities for 2013 and have put forward Marseille and Košice respectively. I intend to support each of these proposals.

There will then be a discussion of a presidency paper on creative content online. The paper asks a series of questions around the prevention of intellectual property theft and the need to promote media literacy: What steps have member states taken to help develop legal offers and tackle the problems of piracy? How effective have these steps been and are there any lessons that can be learned from the experience gained? In particular: (i) how far is it possible to take Government action without risking the creation of new obstacles to the development of new innovative services, and; (ii) how far is it possible to develop solutions which promote greater variety and better accessibility of legal offer while protecting the interests of rightholders? On media literacy, the presidency asks: How can member states achieve greater awareness on the importance of media literacy, and where do they see added value in possible initiatives at EU level? Our contribution to the exchange of views will outline current UK actions where we think that these are relevant to other member states and the Commission.

Under any other business, the presidency will provide information on the state of play of the Commission proposal establishing MEDIA Mundus, an audiovisual co-operation programme with professionals from third countries. The programme has a budget of €15 million and will run for a three-year period from 2011. The aims of the programme include increasing information exchange, competitiveness and transnational distribution worldwide. It also aims to improve circulation and exposure of audiovisual works, increasing public demand for culturally diverse audiovisual content. The presidency will present a paper outlining the current status of this proposal and will invite discussion and comments from member states. The UK is supportive of the principle of this programme, and I do not foresee the need to intervene on this item.

Also under any other business the presidency will provide feedback on the conference held on the responsibilities of content providers and users and the Forum for Creative Europe. There will be an information point on the Work Plan for Culture 2008-10. There will also be an information point from the Greek delegation on the inauguration of the New Acropolis Museum. The Government do not foresee any need to intervene on any of these items.

DEFENCE

Exercise Joint Warrior

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Joint Warrior is a biannual tri-service major exercise with invited NATO and allied nations and usually takes place over a two week period in the spring and autumn. Its aim is to provide high quality joint collective training and pre-deployment training in a multi-threat environment for participating units and their staffs. Each unit will operate from various bases in the UK and abroad but specifically there is an increase in air and land activity across Wales, Scotland and the border regions of England, as well as an increase in maritime activity in the north and west of Scotland.

These exercises have now become routine and I therefore wish to update the House that, with immediate effect, it is my intention to write only to individual Members

who have raised specific concerns. I have also written to First Ministers for Scotland and Wales to advise them of this decision.

Joint Warrior is a complex exercise which requires careful planning and co-ordination to minimise the possibility of environmental damage. I would like to reassure the House that, in order to achieve this, the exercise planning teams will continue to work closely with local authorities, various national rural agencies, landowners and other interested parties.

Collective training is a key priority for defence. It is a vital component of the UK armed forces ability to be able to generate forces at the right time, with the right skills and in the right numbers and Joint Warrior has the additional benefit of also giving UK forces the ability to train and operate with other coalition countries. The next exercise, Joint Warrior 091, commences on 11 May 2009 and a press release will be issued for public information.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Ministers Meeting (4 May 2009)

The Minister of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. David Lammy): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation, Lord Drayson, has made the following written statement:

An informal meeting of EU Research Ministers took place in Prague on 4 May. The two main topics for discussion were links between higher education, research and innovation policies and the mobility and career development of researchers. Professor Adrian Smith, Director-General for Science and Research in DIUS, represented the UK.

The meeting began with a session on the "knowledge triangle" - a concept referring to the links between higher education, innovation and research policies as being central to the creation of a strong knowledge-based economy. There were presentations from the vice-chair of the Czech Research Council and from three organisations representing major investors in R&D from the three sides of the knowledge triangle: EUROHORCs (the heads of national Research Councils in Europe), the European University Association (EUA) and BusinessEurope.

This was followed by a discussion focusing on relevant initiatives being implemented in member states and at European level. The UK stressed the need to address the culture of university-business relations alongside looking at the structures designed to forge links between these two groups and noted action taken in the UK to this effect.

The second session on developing human resources for research examined a paper circulated by the Portuguese and Luxembourg Ministers setting out the conditions required to make Europe a more attractive place for researchers to work. The UK referred to the importance of national action plans on researcher careers and mobility currently being developed in member states and the need to respect national competence which applied in key areas. It was also important to examine the specific needs of mobile researchers in the wider context of mobile workers as a whole and to maximise the use of existing European consultative groups in taking this agenda forward.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Prison Service

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have placed copies of the Northern Ireland Prison Service's Corporate and Business Plan for 2009-12 in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Corporate and Business Plan contains key performance targets I have set for the service for 2009-10. These are:

No escape for category A prisoners.

No more than three escapes per 1,000 category B, C or D prisoners.

The number of staff assaulted by prisoners is less than a ratio of 2.5 per 100 prisoners.

The number of prisoners assaulted by prisoners is less than a ratio of 3 per 100 prisoners.

An average of at least 20 hours constructive activity per week for each sentenced prisoner.

An average of at least 10 hours constructive activity per week for each remand prisoner.

To ensure 87 per cent. of prisoners serving six months or more are working to a resettlement plan and that 97 per cent. of lifers work to a life sentence plan, including preparation of the plan, within the first six months of sentence.

Each member of staff should receive an average of five training days.

Reduce the rate of absenteeism to 11 days by 2009-10.

Lay the "Annual Report and Audited Accounts" before Parliament prior to the summer recess.

Ensure the average cost per prisoner place does not exceed £78,750.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 12 May 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Informal Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Trade, Development and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Gareth Thomas): The following statement provides information on the EU Informal Competitiveness Council which took place in Prague on 5 May 2009, at which my official Claire Durkin, director of Europe International Trade and Development at BERR, represented the UK.

The meeting started with the Commission presenting a paper on lessons learned from the 2004 EU enlargement and the future of the EU internal market. The Commission suggested that the priorities for improving the EU single market and responding to the economic crisis were services (implementation of the services directive), intellectual property (agreement on Community patent and a single patent court) and completing the interconnection of the EU's network industries (telecommunications, postal services, energy and transport sectors).

In discussion, member states agreed with these three priorities and that the single market was essential for EU economic recovery and growth. In addition, several member states highlighted the importance of avoiding protectionism and better implementation of single market legislation. All member states agreed that EU enlargement since 2004 had brought positive benefits to the EU. Member states suggested that future EU developments should be an increased focus on skills, innovation, the low-carbon economy, promoting EU standards externally, more cross-border internet sales, boosting consumer and social benefits, or delivering concrete achievements, such as a Community patent.

The UK agreed with the forward looking suggestions by the Commission and other member states. We stressed the need for the EU to be at the high-end of the value chain, noting in particular business opportunities in low-carbon, digital and services. We also pointed out that the UK is the sixth largest manufacturing country in the world and that we wanted the single market to work equally well for the manufacturing sector. In addition, we welcomed the Larosiere report on EU financial supervision and called for an integrated approach to better regulation and enforcement of EU single market rules.

The Commission also presented a paper on the EU better regulation programme and invited member states to share best practice from national programmes. Most member states were supportive of the EU action programme on administrative burden reductions. Several member states wanted the action programme to take account of new and amending regulations. Member states also wanted better impact assessments on Commission administrative burden reduction proposals. The UK representative stressed the need for co-operation and dialogue between member states on better regulation policies and for stronger EU impact assessments. We also suggested that the EU services directive should be an exemplar for EU legislation and that its implementation by the end of 2009 was important for EU's future competitiveness.

The UK strongly supported the Commission's proposal to allow member states the option to exempt micro-entities (companies with ten or fewer employees and less than €1 million turnover) from the EU accounting directives, which would bring major cost savings for the EU's smallest businesses. Germany, Denmark and Romania also stated their support for the proposal.

National Minimum Wage

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): In March 2008 the Government asked the Low Pay Commission to produce their next report on the national minimum wage by the end of February 2009. Due to the exceptional economic circumstances the Low Pay Commission asked the Government for more time to produce their report to allow them to take into account more recent economic data when making their recommendations. The Government granted this request and asked the Low Pay Commission to report by 1 May 2009. I would like to thank the Commissioners for all their hard work.

Low Pay Commission's 2009 report

The main recommendations put forward by the Low Pay Commission concern the rates of the minimum wage. The Commission have recommended that the adult hourly rate of the minimum wage should increase from £5.73 to £5.80. The Commission have recommended increasing the development rate, which covers workers aged 18 to 21-year-olds, from £4.77 to £4.83. They have recommended that the rate for 16 to 17-year-olds moves from £3.53 to £3.57. It is recommended that these changes take place in October 2009.

The Commission has also recommended that the accommodation offset increases from the current £4.46 to £4.51 in October 2009.

In addition, the Government accept the Commission's recommendations that a policy of "naming and shaming" be implemented for those employers who show wilful disregard for national minimum wage; accept that 21-year-olds should be moved on to the adult rate of the national minimum wage; accepts that commissioning policies of local authorities in respect of social care reflect the true cost of care provision including national minimum wage; and accepts that consideration should be given to tackling non-payment of minimum wage in the informal economy.

The Government note the Commission's recommendations that they wish to explore a national minimum wage rate for apprentices and that more resource should be dedicated to increase the number of prosecutions.

Government's response to individual recommendations in the Low Pay Commission's 2009 report

National Minimum Wage Rates

We recommend that the adult minimum wage rate should increase from £5.73 to £5.80 in October 2009.

We recommend that the youth development rate should increase from £4.77 to £4.83 in October 2009 and that the rate for 16 to17-year-olds should increase from £3.53 to £3.57 in October 2009.

We recommend that the accommodation offset should increase from £4.46 per day to £4.51 per day in October 2009.

ACCEPT

21-year-olds

We recommend again that 21-year-olds should be entitled to the adult rate of the national minimum wage.

ACCEPT

The Government accept that 21-year-old should be entitled to the adult rate of minimum wage. However, as employment for young people is particularly vulnerable in an economic downturn, this change will be implemented from October 2010.

Naming and shaming

We recommend that a "name and shame" policy should be put in place to expose those employers who show wilful disregard for the minimum wage.

ACCEPT

We believe greater transparency in this area is valid, particularly in the light of the fact that the NMW has now been in place for 10 years and is an established part of labour rights.

Apprentices

We recommend that a minimum wage for apprentices should be introduced under the national minimum wage framework.

We recommend that the Government ask the Low Pay Commission, as part of the work for its 2010 report, to consider the detailed arrangements for an apprentice minimum wage under the national minimum wage framework, and to recommend the rate and arrangements that should replace the existing exemptions, together with the timing for its introduction.

NOTE

We recognise the central role that apprentices play in developing skills in our economy. This is reflected in the Government's target of 250,000 people a year starting an apprenticeship in England by 2020 and our commitment that one in five young people will be on an apprenticeship by 2013.

Therefore we note this recommendation, and will respond to the recommendation in full at the time of setting the LPC's remit for 2010, which we plan to do in June.

Social Care

We recommend that the commissioning policies of local authorities and the NHS should reflect the actual costs of care, including the national minimum wage.

Accept

Sufficient resource to increase numbers of prosecutions

We recommend that the Government allocate sufficient resources to HMRC to increase significantly the number of errant employers prosecuted in a criminal court.

NOTE

We recognise the importance of the role that criminal prosecution plays in enforcing the NMW. Prosecutions are focused on cases that will do most to promote compliance with the law by deterring employers who deliberately disregard NMW requirements, and the Employment Act 2008 strengthened HMRC's ability to investigate suspected NMW offences. We will keep our approach to NMW enforcement under review to ensure that we have the most effective balance of civil and criminal enforcement activities.

Consideration of measures to tackle the informal economy

We recommend that the Government give urgent consideration to measures that can be taken to effectively tackle employers in the informal economy.

Accept

Tips and the National Minimum Wage

Although this is not part of the LPC's recommendations, the Government announced last year that we would change the regulations to stop the practice of tips being used to make up the NMW. We intend to proceed with this change in October alongside the LPC recommendations.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Safeguarding - Progress in Delivering ContactPoint

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 26 January, I announced to the House the first steps to deploy the Government's online directory—ContactPoint. I can today provide an update on progress in delivering ContactPoint, and outline the next steps.

ContactPoint has been developed in response to a key recommendation of Lord Laming's inquiry into the tragic death of Victoria Climbié and is a vital tool designed to help keep children safe. In order to protect children it is crucial to ensure that the right agencies are involved at the right time and to improve the sharing of information between practitioners. ContactPoint will also help practitioners to improve outcomes for all children. It is a tool for practitioners to support better communication among practitioners working with children and young people across education, health, social care and youth offending services in the statutory and voluntary sectors. It will provide a quick way for those practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child or young person and ensure their best interests are promoted.

Under current arrangements, if a practitioner believes that a child is at risk or may need additional support, for example if they have a disability, they may have no way of knowing whether other services have been, or are already in contact with that child. In addressing these issues, the Government estimate that ContactPoint, when fully operational, can save at least 5 million hours of professionals' time, currently spent trying to track down who else, if anyone, is helping the child. Supporting professionals in this way is an important element of the plan of action I announced last week in response to Lord Laming's report on child protection. Lord Laming said in that report: "The new ContactPoint system will have particular advantages in reducing the possibility of children for whom there are concerns going unnoticed".

Since January, important progress has been made. Seventeen early adopter local authorities in the north west of England, along with leading national charities, Barnardo's and KIDS, now have trained management teams in preparation for practitioners to start to use the system. At the same time, as part of the extensive ContactPoint security arrangements, local authorities have shielded the records of children who are potentially at greater risk if their whereabouts were to become known, to provide an additional layer of security, (for example, if a child is fleeing domestic violence or is under witness protection, or in some cases where children have been adopted). Approximately 52,000 records have now been shielded on ContactPoint.

Building on this work, we will continue to take an incremental and steady approach to delivery. We are now moving ahead with the second phase of delivery. From 18 May, and over a period of several weeks, ContactPoint early adopters will train around 800 practitioners to use ContactPoint. They have been hand-picked to ensure they reflect the broad range of professionals working for children's services organisations who will use ContactPoint when the directory is fully rolled out. We will carefully monitor the activity of those practitioners considering what further improvements may be required in the light of their experience of using the system.

From June to August, we will train management teams in the other local authorities and national partners. This will allow them to prepare for deployment of ContactPoint more widely in due course.

Throughout this second phase, we will continue to evaluate the experience of early adopters. This will ensure that the deployment of ContactPoint continues to take account of the experience of new users in the next stages of delivery.

ContactPoint continues to be supported by major children's organisations, such as NSPCC, Barnardo's, Action for Children and KIDS, teachers' unions including NASUWT, as well as the Association of Chief Police Officers, the British Association of Social Workers, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Children's Inter-Agency Group whose members include the LGA and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Park Home Site Licensing Provisions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I have today published a Consultation Paper, "Park Home Site Licensing—Improving the Management of Park Home Sites", that proposes the introduction of an improved park home site licensing system.

Licensing of park home sites is currently governed by the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 (the 1960 Act), but the existing site licensing regime does not fully meet the needs of this part of the housing sector. Authorities in general are obliged to grant licences to anyone owning a park home site regardless of their suitability and cannot impose any condition relating to its management. Some sites are therefore run by unscrupulous or incompetent persons, and residents' rights and expectation are often not met, some becoming victims of exploitation and intimidation.

The Government want a thriving and well run sector that provides sites where people want to live. We want a licensing system that raises and maintains standards on sites and ensures they are safe, well planned and properly managed with appropriate facilities and services to meet the needs of residents.

The consultation builds upon decisions about proposals taken following an earlier consultation in 2005 and sets out for further consideration how the new licensing system might look. Persons engaged in the management of park home sites will need to demonstrate they have the relevant competences to manage sites. The new system will give local authorities duties to impose management conditions in licences and a range of enforcement tools to ensure that site licensing conditions are complied with. It will also allow local authorities to recover their costs in connection with their duties under the new provisions by charging appropriate fees. The proposals are intended to drive up the management standards in this sector and, in those parts of it where that is not possible, we intend to give local authorities powers to put alternative management arrangements in place.

I have also today published a paper setting out the Government's response to the May 2008 consultation "A new approach for resolving disputes and to proceedings relating to Park Homes under the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (as amended)". The paper sets out the Government's intention to transfer the jurisdiction on appeals and applications under the Mobile Homes Act 1983 from county courts to Residential Property Tribunals. The paper also includes a short consultation on additional protections for residents subject to proceedings in relation to the termination of their agreements following on from the previous consultation.

The aim of the transfer of the jurisdiction is to provide residents of mobile homes (including caravans) and the owners of sites on which they are located with a level playing field in the resolution of disputes, by providing access to a dedicated, low-cost specialist (housing) tribunal, which can deal with cases quickly and without the parties needing to be legally represented.

Park home residents and the sector more widely will benefit from the introduction of these proposals and will build upon work already done to assist and support residents and others with an interest in park homes. This also includes the recent publication of four new fact-sheets giving key information and basic guidance about commonly raised issues concerning park home sites.

The consultation on site licensing runs until 4 August 2009, and on the additional protections in relation to termination of agreements until 9 June 2009. Both publications have been placed in the Library of the House.

Right to Enfranchise Provisions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I have today published a consultation paper that proposes the non-implementation and repeal of the Right to Enfranchise (RTE) provisions in the 2002 Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act (the 2002 Act).

The 2002 Act sought through the RTE provisions to prevent what was at that time acknowledged to be a fairly limited problem: qualifying leaseholders being deliberately excluded when fellow leaseholders exercised statutory rights to purchase the freehold of the building containing their flats (called collective enfranchisement). However, it has become clear that implementation of the provisions would introduce a considerable amount of additional burdens, complexity and cost into the process.

The Government's view is that this would be to the overall detriment of leaseholders in general who are benefiting from the changes that have been made by the 2002 Act and earlier legislation to remove unreasonable barriers to enfranchisement.

Leaseholders will in due course also benefit from the introduction of regulations on accounting for leaseholders monies which will complete the programme of reform introduced under the 2002 Act.

The consultation runs until 3 August 2009 and the Government would welcome responses to their proposals up until that date. Copies of the paper, "A consultation paper on the right to enfranchise (RTE) provisions", have been placed in the Library of the House.

Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Government have today published the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans on 19 January 2009".

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/caravancountjan2009

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): I am today announcing the release of a consultation into proposed changes to the allocation mechanism for years 2 and 3 (2009/10 and 2010/11) of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG). HPDG was established in 2007 to reward local authorities for improved delivery of housing and other planning outcomes as part of their strategic, place shaping role and to provide more support to communities and local councils who are actively seeking to deliver new homes. The decision to review the grant scheme follows our public commitment to monitor the grant in light of changes in economic circumstances.

Changes to the funding profile

The quantum of funding available for HPDG was set in a different economic context than where we are today. We remain committed to the short and long-term objective of increased housing supply and will continue to invest significant sums through HPDG for local authorities who deliver more homes, with funding doubling from £100 million in year 1 to £200 million in year 3. In addition, there will no longer be a capital element to the grant. However, current economic conditions have created new priorities both for Government and local authorities; we have therefore taken the decision to scale back the increase in HPDG and focus on delivering real help to the people who need it—and so have halved the rent increases facing council tenants this year.

Proposed changes to the allocation mechanism

We are also consulting on changes to the way the grant is allocated to ensure it recognises current challenges and encourages positive action by local authorities to facilitate recovery. Key reforms being proposed are:

To reduce the threshold of net additional homes needed to qualify for the housing element in year 3 in recognition of the more challenging conditions in the housing market.

To introduce additional eligibility requirements for demonstrating land for housing in order to reinforce existing requirements in planning policy statement 3 and increase confidence in the land supply position across the county.

To increase the percentage of the planning element awarded for demonstrating land for housing in year 2 in recognition of the importance of land supply in supporting development.

We are also consulting on proposals for an additional HPDG element in year 3 specifically to incentivise the delivery of affordable housing.

Empowerment

Meaningful community involvement is an integral part of the planning system. The White Paper "Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power" announced up to £4 million additional funding for local planning authorities to promote community participation in planning. This funding is in addition to HPDG; however, we propose to use the HPDG mechanism to distribute this additional funding. The proposed allocation criteria would support those authorities whom we would expect to be undertaking significant community engagement work, either in developing their core strategy or delivering high levels of new housing, and who have already identified community empowerment as a priority for their overall performance.

A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the House Library and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationdeliverygrant

NORTHERN IRELAND

Probation Board for Northern Ireland (Business Plan 2009-10)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have today published the "Probation Board for Northern Ireland Business Plan for 2009-10". The plan sets out the board's key objectives and performance targets for the coming year.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Agency Targets and Business Plans

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): I am today able to announce the annual performance targets for 2009-10 for the two executive agencies of the Department for Work and Pensions. The targets I have agreed are set out.

Further information on the plans of Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service in 2009-10 is contained in their individual "Business Plans" which have been published today. Copies have been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus (2009-10 Targets)

Job Outcome Target (million points)	To achieve a total points score of 9 million based on our priority customer groups.
Interventions Delivery Target	To make sure that specified Jobcentre Plus labour market interventions take place within set timescales in 85% of cases checked.
Employer Engagement Target	At least 92% of employers placing their vacancies with Jobcentre Plus will have a positive outcome.
Customer Service Target	To achieve an 86% customer service level in the delivery of the standards set out in the Customer and Employers Charters.
Fraud and Error	To play a key role to prevent and detect overpayments and underpayments of benefit consistent with the Department's aspiration to reduce total overpaid expenditure across all benefits to 1.8% and underpaid expenditure to 0.7% by March 2011.
	The target is supported by a suite of non-published measures of activities to pay our customers the right benefit at the right time.
Average Actual Clearance Times Tartet[1]	To process claims within specified Average Actual Clearance Times:
Jobseeker's Allowance	11.5 days
Income Support	10 days

[1]A shadow target for Employment and Support Allowance is under development and will be monitored closely during 2009-10 to inform target-setting for 2010-11.

Pension , Disability and Carers Service (2009-10 Targets)

Benefit take-up	To deliver at least 255,000 successful new Pension Credit applications.
Accuracy	Pension Credit financial accuracy of new claims and changes of circumstance: 93% first half year; 94% second half year.
	State Pension financial accuracy of new claims and changes of circumstance: 98%.
	Financial accuracy of Carers Allowance: 98%.
	Accuracy of decisions for Disability Living Allowance (DLA): 94%.
	Accuracy of decisions for Attendance Allowance (AA): 94%.
New Claims Clearance Times	Clear new applications for Pension Credit (measured from date all evidence is received) within an average of 15 days.
	Clear 95% of new claims for State Pension within 60 days.
	Clear new claims for Disability Living Allowance within an average of 38 days.
	Clear new claims for Attendance Allowance within an average of 16 days.
	Clear new claims for Carer's Allowance within an average of 13.5 days.
Fraud and Error	Reduce the proportion of benefit overpaid due to fraud and error in Pension Credit to 4.5% by March 2011.
Telephony	At least 93% of calls to be answered by an adviser.
	Less than 1% of calls receiving an engaged /busy tone.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 13 May 2009

TREASURY

Double Taxation Convention (United Kingdom and Mexico)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new protocol to the Double Taxation Convention with Mexico was signed on 23 April 2009. The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Part G of the Building Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I have today laid before the House regulations that amend Part G of the Building Regulations addressing sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency.

These amendments follow a wide reaching review of Part G of the Building Regulations and consultation on the detailed proposals in May last year and in the earlier consultation in December 2006 on the water efficiency for new buildings element.

The main changes are:

Delivering on the commitment we made in July 2007 to introduce into the Building Regulations for the first time a water efficiency standard of 125 litres per person per day for new homes.

Introducing a requirement that baths in new homes are fitted with protective measures, such as a thermostatic mixing valve, to limit the temperature of the hot water, thereby helping to reduce the number of scalding injuries there are each year.

Introducing amendments to the existing provisions on hot water systems so that they apply to all such systems. The legislation and guidance also introduces additional controls to ensure hot water systems are able to resist the effects of temperature and pressure during normal operation and in the event of malfunction and are adequately supported.

Amending the existing requirements on the provision of cold water to specify the delivery of wholesome water to key appliances and to clarify where grey-water and harvested rainwater can be safely used.

Copies of the approved document have been placed in the Library of the House. This document will shortly be notified to the European Commission under the European standards directive and therefore remains in draft form until we have formal clearance.

In addition, we are also today publishing the "Water Efficiency Calculator for New Dwellings" that will be used to estimate water usage for the purposes of both Part G of the Building Regulations and for the code for sustainable homes. I have also placed copies of this document in the Library of the House.

The Department will also shortly be inviting bodies to apply for authorisation of competent person schemes to support the amended Part G and the new requirements on water efficiency. It is hoped that any such schemes would be authorised to begin operation on 1 October 2009 to coincide with the coming into effect of these regulations.

Housing

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): I have today published a consultation paper, "The Private Rented Sector: Professionalism and Quality", which forms the Government response to the Rugg review of the private rented sector and can also confirm my intention to legislate at the earliest opportunity to improve notice for tenants when landlords are repossessed. These two initiatives together create a major new package of measures to strengthen consumer protections for tenants living in private rented accommodation. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

The Government value the private rented sector and recognise that it plays an important role in providing choice and flexibility at all levels across the housing market and so want to improve its quality, by increasing professionalism, driving out bad landlords, and strengthening protections for tenants affected by repossessions. Today's response builds on the high level proposals in an independent review of the private rented sector by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes (October 2008).

Our proposals include a national register of landlords for England with a redress procedure for tenants; full regulation for private sector letting agents with an independent regulator to regulate all letting and managing agents; greater local authority support for good landlords and action against poor performing landlords; and encouragement to local authorities to create "local lettings agencies".

The proposals also seek to identify ways in which those who regularly engage with the private rented sector can support landlords as they increase in professionalism and seek to improve their stock. This is also a way to attract new landlords and new funding into the sector. The measures we are developing with the Homes and Communities Agency build on this by seeking ways to encourage more institutional investment in private rented homes.

The consultation runs until 7 August 2009.

I am also announcing today my intention to legislate at the earliest opportunity to provide better protection for tenants in repossession cases.

At present, a gap in legal protections means that some tenants could be evicted at short notice if their landlord is repossessed—sometimes with less than two weeks to move their belongings and find somewhere new to live. I propose to extend this notice period to two months. These changes are part of a wider package of support the Government have put in place to support households at risk of repossession in the current economic climate.

In the meantime, lenders and Government are working together to try to mitigate the impact on tenants whose landlords are in arrears including by promoting and sharing good practice between lenders through the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Very often tenants can be adversely affected because the borrower is in breach of the terms of his mortgage. Changes to the rules for informing tenants if their landlord is due to attend a court repossession hearing have already come into effect. We now want to ensure that in these cases where a landlord repossession takes place following the hearing, the tenant gets a two-month notice period.

Both these initiatives—our response to the Rugg review and the measures on repossessions—are positive, constructive steps we are taking to enhance and strengthen a key housing sector, and to provide a balanced range of protection to those who provide private rented accommodation and those millions of people who live in it.

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): On 26 March I made a statement to the House on council tax capping. In this, I set out the action that the Government proposed to take, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, against two police authorities which had set excessive budget requirement and council tax increases in 2009-10 according to the principles that I announced, *Official Report*, columns 464-65. These were the police authorities of Derbyshire and Surrey. Both authorities were "designated" and the Government proposed maximum 2009-10 budget requirements for each authority.

Both authorities exercised their right to challenge these proposed maximum budget requirements and made written submissions in support of their cases. In addition, I and the Policing Minister, together met delegations from each authority to hear the cases in person.

I can now announce how my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government intends to proceed, having carefully considered these representations, and having taken into account all relevant information. In putting forward their challenges, neither authority has, in the Secretary of State's view, presented strong arguments as to why an excessive increase was necessary, or demonstrated that the pressures identified acted disproportionately upon them to any significant extent compared to other authorities. We intend therefore to take action in both cases.

After careful consideration, the Secretary of State has decided to take the following action:

first, we will proceed with the designation of Surrey Police Authority in 2009-10 at the level of the original budget requirement cap (£197,206,000);

secondly, we will cancel the designation of Derbyshire Police Authority and nominate it instead with a proposed notional budget requirement at the level of the original budget requirement cap (£163,511,000).

In the case of Surrey Police Authority, the House will recall that last year the authority was set a notional budget requirement in 2008-09 instead of being designated for in-year capping in that year. This allowed the authority to keep all of its excessive increase in 2008-09, avoided the need for it to rebill and gave it an opportunity to avoid setting an excessive increase in the current financial year, 2009-10. Surrey Police Authority has failed to take that opportunity. I am particularly mindful that I provided an assurance to the House during the capping debate on 9 July 2008 that the residents of all the authorities which were set notional budget requirements last year, including those in Surrey, would be protected against excessive increases in 2009-10. I consider that the Government must take meaningful action which makes good that commitment.

The approach we have taken, in nominating Derbyshire Police Authority and setting a notional budget requirement is equivalent to the action we took against Surrey Police Authority in 2008-09. It is intended to limit the authority's scope for setting excessive increases in subsequent years. This will be achieved by measuring future budget requirement increases for capping purposes against its 2009-10 notional budget requirement. From the actions we have taken this year, the authority should be in no doubt that the Government will take firm action, should we need to do so next year, to ensure that council tax payers are provided with adequate protection.

My officials are writing to both authorities today to inform them of these decisions. Subject to approval of an order which we intend to lay before the House following the local and European elections in June, Surrey Police Authority will need to rebill its residents for a lower level of council tax. Derbyshire Police Authority, having been nominated in 2009-10 and set a notional budget requirement, has 21 days from receipt of the notification in which to challenge its proposed notional budget requirement.

Ideally the Government would not be taking capping action, but the Government consistently made it clear that we would act to protect council taxpayers from excessive increases. This is what we have done. I am nevertheless conscious of the fact that local government generally has done a great deal to ensure that they do not place unnecessary pressures on their council taxpayers. More than 99 per cent. of authorities did not set excessive increases—and the average Band D council tax increase in England for 2009-10 is 3 per cent. The average household council tax bill is almost £240 lower than the average Band D amount, and will increase by just 2.6 per cent.—the lowest such increase since council tax was introduced in 1993.

There is no excuse for excessive increases in council tax and authorities should remain in no doubt that the Government will not hesitate to use their capping powers to deal with excessive increases in future years, including requiring authorities to rebill residents if this proves necessary.

DEFENCE

Joint Aircraft Recovery and Transportation Squadron Basing Study

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am able to inform the House today of the outcome of the Royal Air Force study that has been undertaken to consider the future basing requirements of the Joint Aircraft Recovery and Transportation Squadron (JARTS) units as part of our continuing commitment to ensuring that the best use is made of the Defence Estate.

The primary role of JARTS is to manage the recovery and transportation of both military and, in some instances, civilian aircraft. Currently, there is a team based at Vector Aerospace Fleetlands, in Gosport, which deals with helicopter recovery and transportation; and a team at MOD St. Athan which deals with fixed wing aircraft. The study was undertaken to consider options to collocate the rotary and fixed wing elements, to identify the best value for money and most affordable basing options to meet the operational and training requirements of JARTS.

Based on the recommendations of this work, I have decided that the rotary wing element, currently located at Vector Aerospace Fleetlands, and fixed wing element, currently located at MOD St. Athan, will collocate at MOD Boscombe Down, subject to Trades Union consultation. Not only does this option represent the best value for money and generate savings which cannot be achieved through the current dislocated nature of the organisation, it also offers operational benefits through simplified command and control processes and increased operational flexibility. Subject to the necessary infrastructure being in place, the collocation is due to be complete by late 2010. Service and civilian personnel will be briefed on the progress of the move.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): Today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is launching a consultation on the new code of practice for alcohol retailers that will ensure the responsible sale and supply of alcohol in order to tackle alcohol-related crime, disorder and nuisance. The code will consist of a series of mandatory and discretionary local conditions under the Licensing Act and requirements under the Food Safety Act, with statutory guidance to underpin its implementation. We are currently taking enabling powers for this code through the Policing and Crime Bill.

The consultation will run from today until the 5 August 2009. We want to hear views, experiences and evidence from members of the public, those who retail alcohol and represent the industry, licensing authorities and the police who have to enforce licensing policy, and health agencies who have to deal with the impact of alcohol-related harm.

The Home Secretary will report back later this year with the findings of this consultation and will then, at a later date, lay the secondary legislation to bring the code into force.

Copies of the consultation will be placed in the Vote Office and the House Library.

Serious Organised Crime Agency (Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): The annual report of the Serious Organised Crime Agency for 2008-09 is being published and laid before Parliament today. As required by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, the report includes an assessment of the extent to which the annual plan for 2008-09 has been carried out.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I am today announcing that the Government intend to re-tender the contract for the bail accommodation and support service.

The primary aim of the bail accommodation and support service is to provide accommodation and support services to enable the courts and prison governors to make greater use of conditional bail and early release on home detention curfew, in appropriate cases. The scheme allows defendants without an appropriate address, who would otherwise have been granted bail by the courts, to be bailed. It helps to ensure that prison is reserved for people who really need to be there, not people who the courts judge to be suitable for bail or who prison governors judge may be placed on home detention curfew.

The core requirement of the current BASS contract is to make suitable accommodation available at relatively short notice; to seek to ensure that service users comply with the conditions of their orders or licences; and, where necessary, be able to deliver access to a range of accommodation and life skills support services.

The current contract commenced on 18 June 2007 for an initial period of three years and

to date over 3300 people have been placed in the service;

on a daily basis there are over 400 service users managed within the scheme.

I welcome views on how we can further strengthen this service to improve compliance with orders and licences and reduce re-offending.

OLYMPICS

Government Olympic Executive Quarterly Economic Report

The Minister for the Olympics (Tessa Jowell): Please find below details of the decisions taken at yesterday's meeting of the Ministerial Funders' Group, and of the Government Olympic Executive's first Quarterly Economic Report, which is published today.

Funders' Group Meeting—12 May 2009

The Funders' Group[1] met yesterday and agreed that a further £324 million of the Olympic public sector funding package would be invested in the Olympic Village.

The funders decided that a public sector approach offered better value for money than a deal with private developer Lend Lease and would cost substantially less public money in the long term. The terms of the Lend Lease deal had been materially affected by the economic

downturn, such that it no longer offered best value for money. Previous releases of contingency (totalling £326 million) have kept the progress on site on track over the last year.

The decision to make a further £324 million available to the ODA makes a total of £650 million being made available to deliver the village for the games.

This further investment now means the public sector will own the village and receive returns from sales after the games.

Over the medium to long term, as the market improves, the ODA will seek alternative private investment and management for the village on terms more favourable to the taxpayer. At least all of the additional £324 million public investment being made today from contingency and savings is expected to be returned after the games when the flats are sold.

To fund this investment, the Funders Group agreed to release £324 million of public funding from within the Olympic budget. Of this, £261 million comes directly from the contingency fund while £63 million is from savings made elsewhere across the ODA's programme.

Following a competitive tender process the ODA was in discussions with developer Lend Lease about private sector investment into part of the village development. Lend Lease has already been appointed construction and development manager and this remains unchanged.

Lend Lease and its banking consortium were prepared to invest up to £150 million of equity, involving a return to Lend Lease, and £225 million of bank debt to finance part of the construction and development costs.

However, the current economic climate has resulted in the private sector becoming more risk averse and, for the deal to proceed, the ODA would have had to carry an increased level of risk.

After careful assessment it is clear that the publicly funded option will provide the best value for money over the longer term.

It was also confirmed today that agreement in principle has been reached for a further £268 million to be invested in the Village through the pre-sale arrangement for the affordable housing element. This funding is separate to the Olympic budget and made up of grant from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and lending from a private sector banking consortium on commercial terms.

This means the funding for the village has now been confirmed. The total cost of the village, including £147 million of post games development costs, can now be confirmed as £1,095 million. This will be funded using:

£650 million of public investment

£268 million of funding for social housing with the balance funded from sales of private housing.

Our valuations demonstrate that at least all of the contingency being invested today and the balance needed to meet the total cost of the village will be recouped in sales. It is impossible to know exactly how much will be recouped from private housing sales, given the uncertainty of the market, but independent analysis has supported the valuation used.

Construction work on the village started on schedule last June and remains on track with building now underway on four out of the eleven residential blocks.

Quarterly Economic Report—May 2009

I have today published the Government Olympic Executive's first Quarterly Economic Report—"London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Economic Report May 2009".

The report explains the latest budget position including the impact of the decisions made at the Funders' Group meeting on 12 May 2009.

Due to cost savings and good management the overall forecast cost of the programme has reduced by £179 million since our last report in January to £7.234 billion—being £865 million less than the maximum budget available.

It also outlines the progress that has been made since January 2009 on providing support for businesses and individuals through training, apprenticeships and other initiatives.

The report shows that, after taking into account the £324 million made available to the ODA yesterday, around £1.3 billion of contingency remains unreleased and the overall programme remains on time and within budget.

It also demonstrates the real impact that the games are having now—providing skills, training, apprenticeships and jobs for individuals and contracts to UK businesses—and how they are helping to prepare the new, post-downturn economy.

This is the first quarterly report produced by the Government Olympic Executive. It marks a shift from a six-monthly to a quarterly reporting cycle, which will increase further the transparency of the project.

I would like to commend this report to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest and support of the London 2012 Games.

Copies of the Quarterly Economic Report May 2009 are available at: www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

'The Ministerial Funders' Group is chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and also consists of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Minister for the Olympics, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Secretary of State for Transport. The Mayor of London attends but is not a member.

TRANSPORT

Written Answers (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I wish to inform the House that the consolidated answer I gave on 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 758W to four Parliamentary Questions 267114, 267115, 267117 and 267165 regarding the distribution of salt for the treatment of roads, during January and February 2009 was not sufficiently clear in respect of the restrictions that drivers' hours had on deliveries.

The answer advised that "During the weekend of the 7 and 8 February 2009, one of the primary salt suppliers could not make deliveries due to drivers' hours restrictions".

The restriction on drivers' hours was lifted on 6 February, specifically to allow salt deliveries to take place. However, due to the extensive logistics required to plan deliveries and the late stage at which the drivers' hours relaxation was received, a salt supplier, with whom the Highway

Agency were in direct contact (via the Central Government led "Salt Cell") to discuss the distribution of salt, confirmed it would not be possible to deliver over the weekend of 7 and 8 February.

Given the critical need for salt over that weekend, the Highways Agency put in place appropriate arrangements to facilitate immediate deliveries.

Sustainable Travel City (Demonstration Project)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am today announcing that large urban areas across England are being given the chance to bid to become the country's first Sustainable Travel City.

Up to £29 million will be invested over three years in at least one of England's larger cities to encourage greener travel choices. These could include plans to support walking, cycling and initiatives to improve public transport.

This follows the success of the Department for Transport's three Sustainable Travel Towns who, over the last five years, have seen car use fall by up to 9 per cent., walking increase by up to 14 per cent., and cycling increase by at least 12 per cent..

The aims of the Sustainable Travel City or Cities are to ease congestion, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and increase levels of physical activity in the local area. By achieving this, the city will provide a model for others to follow. The chosen city will introduce innovative new strategies and build on existing work to achieve this, which could include:

- work or school travel planning;
- cycle training;
- personalised travel planning;
- online journey planning;
- car share schemes;
- car clubs;
- reviewing parking provision;
- dedicated bus routes;
- improved bus stops and shelter;
- cycling/pedestrian routes;
- 20 mph zones.

The major urban areas eligible to apply suffer from the worst congestion in the country. The nine areas are; Greater Manchester, West Midlands, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, Merseyside, West of England (Bristol), Nottingham and Leicester.

We are also announcing up to £3 million of funding to smaller local authorities areas to help them develop their own green travel initiatives.

WORK AND PENSIONS

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): I am pleased to announce that the Government are taking the final steps towards ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and we aim to deposit our instrument of ratification with the United Nations on Monday 8 June. I will make a further announcement when this has been done.

The Government have given very careful consideration to the views that have been expressed in response to the Explanatory Memorandum which we laid before Parliament on 3 March setting out the basis on which we propose to ratify, including those of the Joint Committee on Human Rights in their report of 17 April. It remains our view that the handful of reservations and the interpretative declaration are required and we will now proceed to ratification on that basis.

With regard to education, an interpretative declaration will be entered to make clear that the UK general education system includes both mainstream and special schools, thereby clarifying how the UK Government interpret the Convention. A reservation will be entered to allow for circumstances where disabled children's needs may be best met through specialist provision, which may be some way from their home, and which means that they will need to be educated outside their local community. This also maintains parental choice for schools outside the local community. The purpose of the interpretative declaration and reservation is to maintain the present policy and legislative position in respect of inclusive education.

On freedom of movement, a general reservation will be entered in order to retain the right to apply immigration rules and to retain the right to introduce wider health screening for applicants entering or seeking to remain in the UK, particularly in the event of a global health emergency, if this is considered necessary to protect public health.

A reservation will be entered in respect of service in the armed forces to preserve the position already reflected in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended (DDA). Service in the armed forces is exempt from the employment provisions of the DDA. This approach is entirely consistent with EU Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation. Service in any of the naval, military or air forces of the Crown are excluded from the DDA's employment provisions to preserve their combat effectiveness. The Government decided to exclude members of the armed forces in the DDA because armed forces personnel need to be combat effective in order to meet a world-wide liability to deploy, and to ensure that military health and fitness remain matters for Ministry of Defence Ministers based on military advice, not for the courts.

The Explanatory Memorandum of 3 March explained that the UK's reservation in respect of service in the armed forces and a complementary one proposed by the European Commission in respect of its proposals for European Community Conclusion (ie ratification) would be the subject of discussion. Following (and reflecting) discussion with the European Commission, the terms of that will be entered are:

> "The United Kingdom accepts the provisions of the Convention, subject to the understanding that none of its obligations relating to equal treatment in employment and occupation, shall apply to the admission into or service in any of the naval, military or air forces of the Crown".

This is a slight change in wording—but the substance and rational for the reservation have not changed.

A reservation will be entered in respect of Article 12.4, which concerns safeguards for the exercise of substituted decision-making and includes a requirement for "regular review" by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. There is currently no review system for Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) appointees, that is, people who are appointed to claim and collect benefits on behalf of another person due to that person's lack of physical or mental capacity. Those appointee arrangements are not at present subject to the safeguard of regular review, as the Government believe this Article requires. DWP is therefore actively working towards a proportionate system of review to address this issue.

Ratification of the Convention is our immediate objective, and represents the end of a detailed process. But equally importantly it marks a beginning, and enables the start of the process of implementing this important Convention within the UK.

Ratification of the Convention is further demonstration of our commitment to equality of human rights for disabled people, and our determination to achieve equality by 2025.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 14 May 2009

DEFENCE

Deepcut Boards of Inquiry

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am announcing today the findings of the boards of inquiry (BOIs) into the tragic deaths at Deepcut of Privates Gray and Collinson.

The impact of their untimely deaths was felt, not just across the MOD, but across the nation. Our thoughts are with all their families and friends at this difficult time.

The BOIs were delayed due to the other investigations and reviews into the deaths at Deepcut, which had to be completed first. Having convened, they were subsequently reconvened to clarify evidence. We deeply regret the additional distress that the delay to the BOIs has caused to the families of Privates Gray and Collinson.

The next of kin were present at the BOI proceedings and have been presented with copies of the reports.

The board agrees with the coroner's open verdict in both cases. In the case of Private Collinson, the board concludes that there were no indications in his general behaviour during his time in the Army to suggest that he was at any risk. In the case of Private Gray, the BOI concurs with Blake in concluding that there is no substantial evidence supporting third-party involvement in his death. In addition to covering the specific circumstances surrounding the deaths, each report covers the background to Deepcut from 1993 until the time of the deaths, including such issues as discipline, staff selection, welfare support and guarding arrangements. Both reports also detail the changes that have been made since the deaths to address these issues.

The BOIs make 19 identical recommendations and the Gray BOI makes one further recommendation. The recommendations are wide-ranging and there is considerable overlap with those made in earlier reviews and investigations into the deaths at Deepcut. For this reason all have been addressed and further work has been put in train to ensure that all possible related improvements are made. The recommendations focus on support to bereaved families; the service inquiry process, including tracking the implementation of recommendations; and the need to maintain momentum with continuous improvement in the training environment.

The release of these BOIs does not alter our position on the need for a public inquiry. Given the range of investigations that have now taken place, we do not believe there is any wider public or service interest in pursuing one.

I will arrange for copies of both BOI reports, redacted in accordance with guidance on the Freedom of Information Act and the Data Protection Act, to be placed in the Library of the House. Both documents will also be published on the MOD website at www.foi.mod.uk.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 18 and 19 May in Brussels. My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Baroness Taylor of Bolton, and my hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the 18 and 19 June European Council

EU Foreign Ministers will discuss the presidency's agenda for the June European Council. The European Council will focus on EU institutional issues and agree Ireland's guarantees on the Lisbon treaty. The Council will also discuss the economic, financial and social situation and will take first decisions on financial regulation based on the Commission's proposals on the De Larosiere report, as well as examining progress on the G20 London summit outcomes. There will also be a discussion on climate change funding mechanisms in order to develop an EU position ahead of the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen in December.

The Government support these discussions at the June European Council. We welcome the continued co-ordinated EU response to the economic and financial situation and look forward to the Council discussing credible options for an ambitious climate finance offer.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

EU-Russia Summit preparations

The Council will discuss preparations for the EU-Russia summit, which is taking place in Khabarovsk on 21 and 22 May. In this context the Council will also discuss EU-Russia relations, taking stock of the state of negotiations on a successor to the EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement, and a range of international issues of common interest to the EU and Russia.

At the summit, the EU will reaffirm its commitment to wide-ranging engagement with Russia, which the Government support as being in the UK and EU's interests. We are willing to pursue active co-operation on important international issues, but also insist that Russia plays a responsible international role, keeping to international commitments it has made, including on Georgia. We will provide Parliament with a full update following the summit.

Moldova

Ministers may discuss Moldova, following their discussion at the April GAERC about the post-election demonstrations and the authorities' reaction. The Government remain concerned about human rights abuses, and we encourage the Moldovan authorities to allow an independent investigation into the events following the demonstrations. We recognise Moldova's aspirations of closer integration with the EU, but maintain that this relationship must be based on a firm commitment to human rights as enshrined in the Eastern Partnership.

Iran

Following the April GAERC, which agreed conclusions, this discussion should be an opportunity to broaden the debate and again encourage the EU to consider how it

can best support US engagement. Member states will look to the Council secretariat to update them on the Iranian response to the E3+3's invitation to recommence talks as soon as possible—Iran has so far sent no reply.

We will stress the opportunity that the E3+3 offer presents to Iran and the necessity for the EU to give its full backing to the renewed diplomatic efforts and the dual-track strategy, and encourage other member states to express their views on the most effective way forward. We will encourage further discussions on Iran over the coming months in the EU as the diplomatic situation develops.

Georgia

The Council will discuss the current situation in Georgia, including the EU's continued call for dialogue between the Government and the political opposition following a month of protests in Tbilisi. Ministers are likely to focus on the EU's current and future engagement with Georgia. The discussion is likely to include issues such as progress on trade agreements, visa facilitation and other elements arising from the Eastern Partnership summit on 7 May, as well as a discussion of the activities of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia.

AOB

Sri Lanka

We would support Council conclusions outlining the EU's serious concern about recent reports of mass civilian casualties in the conflict area. The Government are appalled by these reports; our position is that the fighting must stop, and that the safety and security of those civilians who remain in the conflict area is a priority. The Council is likely to call on the Government of Sri Lanka to allow full and unhindered access for humanitarian agencies to IDPs wherever they are; and to underline the EU's determination to press the Government of Sri Lanka to make urgent progress on an inclusive political solution to the conflict.

Illegal Migration

There will be a short discussion of illegal migration in the Mediterranean region, at the request of Greece. We expect Ministers to focus on increasing and strengthening co-operation in Europe to tackle the increasing flows of illegal migration. The UK supports this and recognises the particular challenges that are faced by Greece and other Mediterranean countries. We are also keen to further the UK's bilateral relationship with Greece on migration through the provision of technical advice and assistance.

JOINT SESSION OF EU FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTERS

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Council is likely to review progress made to date on the five objectives and two conditions ("5+2") required for the closure of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and future prospects for achieving these. The UK will note the lack of progress made since the March meeting of the Peace Implementation Council. We will reaffirm our commitment to the "5+2" needing to be completed before transition to a solely EU special representative-led mission can occur. We also expect Ministers to discuss options for drawdown of EUFOR, the EU's military mission.

Somalia/Piracy

Please refer to the EU Defence Ministers section below, which refers to the EU's counter-piracy operation Atalanta.

EU DEFENCE MINISTERS

The European Defence Agency Steering Board will meet in the EU Defence Ministers formation on 18 May. Ministers will be presented with the agency's draft three-year EDA work plan in order to support the setting of a three year financial framework at a GAERC to be held under the Swedish presidency in the second half of 2009.

Ministers will also be given an update on seven European Defence Agency capability projects. This will include the multi-national helicopter initiative (previously the UK-France helicopter initiative) which has raised €27 million towards the cost of upgrading European helicopters and training pilots to deploy to operational theatres. Defence Ministers will reflect on the EUFOR military operation in Chad and the Central African Republic which ended in March 2009. Over lunch, Defence Ministers will talk about the issue of EU co-operation with partners, with a particular focus on productive co-operation with NATO.

In both the joint session of Foreign and Defence Ministers and the separate Defence Ministers session, Ministers will discuss ongoing EU military operations including the next steps for the ALTHEA mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ministers will also discuss the EU's counter-piracy operation Atalanta, which is led by a British Rear-Admiral from the multi-national headquarters at Northwood, as it approaches the six-month review point.

EU DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS

The Council will discuss how the EU can support developing countries in coping with the economic crisis. We expect conclusions to set out a series of measures with a particular focus on honouring our existing aid commitments and supporting progress towards the millennium development goals. The conclusions should also outline how the EU will help support the G20 London summit recommendations on development. Other items on the agenda include a discussion of potential areas for EU/US co-operation, a Commission update on the economic partnership agreements; a preliminary discussion on democratic governance, which will be more fully considered under the Swedish presidency; climate financing; and Kenya.

The UK also intends to raise Sri Lanka in the context of EU development policy.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Policing Board

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have today placed copies of the Framework Documents for the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Policing Board in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (Ministerial Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I am pleased to announce the broad objectives and specific ministerial targets for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for 2009-10.

These are:

Safety Objective—Through accident prevention and effective search and rescue co-ordination and response, improve the safety of ships and people at sea and at the coast.

Performance under this objective will be measured against the following ministerial delivery targets:

MT1— Maintain the quality of maritime emergency co-ordination and response by the coastguard.

MT2a— Helicopters tasked to respond to incidents will be airborne within 15 minutes during daylight hours and 45 minutes at night in at least 98 per cent. of cases.

MT2b— At each MCA search and rescue helicopter base, a helicopter will be available at least 98 per cent. of the contracted time to respond to incidents.

MT3— Meet the internationally required target to inspect 25 per cent. of foreign vessels in UK ports under port state control arrangements, with an increasing emphasis on inspecting available ships judged to be high-risk.

MT4— Maintain the quality of the UK Ship Register by reducing the level of deficiencies recorded on UK ships inspected abroad, and maintain a position on the Paris MOU White List which is comparable to registers of a similar size and reputation.

MT5— As a Category 1 Responder, continue to meet the provisions of the Civil Contingencies Act including increased engagement with local resilience forums (LRF).

MT6— Respond promptly to potential and actual pollution from ships around the UK coast, drawing effectively on resources including our emergency tugs, and following the procedures set out in the National Contingency Plan.

Under this objective the MCA will also continue with their three-year programme of work in the following areas:

Seafarer Fatigue—working with the shipping industry and seafarer unions on a coherent strategy to reduce seafarer fatigue.

Fishing Vessels—working with the fishing industry to improve the safety of small fishing vessels (under 15 metres).

Lifejackets—working with the agency's partner organisations (including the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Royal Yachting Association), to promote the wearing of lifejackets within the leisure sector.

Environment Objective—Through our monitoring of ships and response to pollution incidents protect the marine environment.

Performance under this objective will be measured against the following ministerial delivery target:

MT6—Respond promptly to potential and actual pollution from ships around the UK

coast, drawing effectively on resources including our emergency tugs, and following the

procedures set out in the National Contingency Plan.

Under this objective the MCA will continue its three-year programme of work covering:

Vessel Traffic Management—identifying the future requirements of sea space management and the role the agency may perform and continue to implement the European Vessel Traffic Monitoring Directive (VTMD) through UK law and monitoring the vessels operating in UK waters.

The agency will also continue to monitor its performance through a range of service standards and measured outcomes which will be reported in its published annual report and accounts.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 15 May 2009

DEFENCE

Non-Competitive Government Contracts (Profit Formula)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): The Government have accepted the findings of the review board for Government contracts as detailed in their report of the 2009 annual review of the profit formula for non-competitive Government contracts. The board's recommendations will be implemented in accordance with arrangements subsequently agreed with the industry side and recorded in an addendum to the published report. I will be placing a copy of the report in the Library of the House. The recommendations will be implemented for new non-competitive work with effect from 1 June 2009.

JUSTICE

Coroners and Justice Bill

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): In some rare but very important cases there may be highly sensitive information directly relevant to the circumstances of the death but which cannot be made public in any way. To meet this problem the Coroners and Justice Bill contains provisions to dispense with a jury inquest in certain tightly defined circumstances. These provisions have greatly been improved during their Commons' scrutiny. Now the decisions as to whether to hold a non-jury inquest would be made within the criteria by a High Court judge, sitting as a coroner. The main provisions on this are in clause 11. By clause 12 the blanket ban on the admission of intercept evidence was modified for the purposes of these special inquests.

The Government felt these changes struck a fair and proportionate balance between the interests of bereaved families, the need to protect sensitive material and judicial oversight of the whole process.

However, following further discussions in the House and with interested parties it is clear the provisions still do not command the necessary cross party support and in these circumstances the Government will table amendments to remove clauses 11 and 12 (and the equivalent Northern Ireland provisions) from the Bill.

Where it is not possible to proceed with an inquest under the current arrangements, the Government will consider establishing an inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 to ascertain the circumstances the deceased came by his or her death. Each case will be looked at on its own individual merits. As with the provisions in respect of the certification of coroners' investigations, we would expect to resort to such a procedure only in very exceptional and rare circumstances.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 18 May 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Companies House

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): I have set Companies House the following targets for the year 2009-10:

Customer

To achieve a score of more than 86 per cent. in each quarterly Companies House customer satisfaction survey.

To achieve on average a monthly compliance rate for accounts submitted of 95.3 per cent.

To achieve an electronic filing target for accounts of 20 per cent.

To achieve an electronic filing target for other transactions of 67 per cent.

To ensure that 95 per cent. of electronic documents can be accessed within 60 seconds by search customers from the Companies House Direct download area.

To resolve 97 per cent. of all complaints within 5 days.

The chief executive to reply within 10 days to all letters from members of Parliament delegated to him to reply.

Process

To ensure that 95 per cent. of electronic transactions received are available to view on the public record within 72 hours.

To ensure that 95 per cent. of paper transactions received are available to view on the public record within 8 days.

To ensure that 99.5 per cent. of images placed on the Companies House image system are legible and complete.

To ensure that Companies House Direct, WebCheck and WebFiling are available for 99 per cent. of the time between the hours of 7.00 am and midnight.

People

To ensure that our average work days lost per person is no more than 10.

To improve the operational energy efficiency rating of Companies House's headquarters building by 10 per cent..

Finance

To achieve by 2010-11 a reduction, in real terms, of 15 per cent. compared to 2007-08 in the operational monetary cost of the registry per company on the register (three-year target).

To achieve taking one year with another, a 3.5 per cent. average rate of return based on the operating surplus expressed as a percentage of average net assets.

To pay invoices within 10 days.

HEALTH

Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): I regret that the written answer given to the hon. Member for Halton (Derek Twigg) on 30 March, *Official Report*, column 896w, was incorrect.

Data provided were not validated and this did not come to light until queries were raised about data for a subsequent question. In addition, it is worth noting that Wakefield sits outside the North West catchment area and should not have been included in the previous table.

The correct information is given in the following table.

The number of severe complex burn cases treated by each burn centre in the North West in each year since 2003[1]

North West Catchment Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Paediatrics							
Manchester	10	5	7	8	12	13	55
Liverpool	3	5	3	2	3	5	21
Preston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paediatrics total	13	10	10	10	15	18	76
Adults							
Manchester	9	10	13	16	16	19	83
Liverpool	7	5	8	11	10	15	56
Preston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult total	16	15	21	27	26	34	139
Uncoded data[2]	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
NW total	66	25	31	37	41	52	216

Source:
The National Burn Injury Database (NBID) was established in 2003 and had no data available before this time.
1: Data do not include readmissions.
2: Uncoded for paediatric or adult case.

Health Inequalities

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The House of Commons Health Select Committee published its report on health inequalities on 15 March 2009. The Government response to this report (Cm 7621) has been laid before Parliament today.

The Government response welcomes the Committee's support for its work on health inequalities. Cross-Government action on health inequalities has helped contribute to major improvements in the health of the people in disadvantaged groups and areas over the last 10 years. The Government also welcome the Committee's support for the health inequalities target, for the post-2010 strategic review of health inequalities announced on 6 November 2008, and for the practical suggestions contained in the report.

The Government have used the experience of the last 10 years to shape their approach to the health inequalities agenda and develop practical, evidence-based programmes and policies. We are committed to continue this work.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 19 May 2009

TREASURY

Asset Freezing Regime

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): In a Written Ministerial Statement on 10 October 2006, the then Economic Secretary undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter terrorism asset freezing regime. This is the tenth of these reports and covers the period January to March 2009[1].

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter January to March 2009, the Treasury gave no directions under the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006. The Treasury revoked one direction given under this Order.

The Treasury gave two directions under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006. The Treasury revoked two directions given under this Order, one of which related to a person designated on a restricted basis.

There were no financial sanctions designations made the UN, or at the EU, in relation to terrorism, or Al-Qaeda and the Taliban of persons with links to the UK.

As of 31 March 2009, a total of 253 accounts containing just over £632,500[2] of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK.

Reviews

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review and completed 10 formal reviews in this quarter.

Licensing

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002), the Treasury operates a licensing system whereby designated persons and others are able to apply to make or receive payments under specific and, if necessary, monitored conditions. In this quarter, the following licences were issued to listed persons:

Seven listed persons were granted legal expenses licences;

13 listed persons were granted basic expenses (including licences for benefits payments);

No licences were granted for extraordinary expenses.

In this quarter three household of listed persons were granted benefits licences.

[1]The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2]This figure reflects account balances at time of freezing and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 31-03-09. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

Tax Credits

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): National statistics published today demonstrate the substantial contribution tax credits are making to deliver guaranteed minimum incomes for working families and families with children, reducing child poverty, and improving work incentives.

The Government remain committed to the current responsive system of tax credits, which provide additional financial support to families experiencing a fall in income. In the current economic climate, this support is benefiting an even larger number of households. Figures published at the Budget show that around 355,000 households living on a lower income are receiving on average £35 more per week in tax credits.

The statistics published by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) today show that in 2007-08 the child and working tax credits were benefiting around 6 million families and 10 million children.

The figures also show that efforts to reduce overpayments of tax credits continue to be effective. The level of overpayments is now £1 billion, less than half the level in 2003-04 and five per cent of finalised entitlement paid by HMRC. The average size of overpayments is £705, which has fallen by nearly a third since 2003-04. This is against a backdrop of increasing entitlement with total awards increasing again, by six per cent compared to 2006-07.

The number of families entitled to end of year top-ups has increased as we anticipated last May to 1.29 million (£798 million). This is a result of one of the components of the package of measures announced in the Pre Budget Report 2005 to reduce overpayments.

The statistics also show that in 2007-08:

families received more support from tax credits with the average tax credit award increasing by £200 to £3611 compared with 2006-07. This does not take into account further increases in the child element of £390 and in the basic element of the working tax credit of £160 from 2007-08 to 2009-10;

more working people on low incomes without children received tax credits, with 336,000 receiving support through the working tax credit, up by 10 per cent on 2006-07;

414,000 families benefited from the childcare element of the working tax credit, an eight per cent increase compared with 2006-07, thereby making childcare more affordable and giving parents more choice in how they balance work and family life; and

108,000 families benefited from extra help for workers with a disability-increase of nine per cent compared to 2006-07, helping these individuals overcome the labour market disadvantage they face.

The take-up of tax credits is a significant success. Other recent published statistics have shown that in 2006-07 take-up of the Child Tax Credit is 81 per cent, with 88 per cent of the money available being claimed. Take-up among those on incomes below £10,000 is 92 per cent; and take-up among lone parents is 95 per cent. This is higher than for any previous system of income-related financial support for in-work families.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I am today announcing key performance targets have been agreed for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

The agency's principal financial target for 2009-10 is to achieve a minimum dividend payment to the Department for Communities and Local Government equal to the total of 6 per cent. of average capital employed and a sum equal to the capital charge that applies to the building for the year concerned. The agency is currently forecasting that 2009-10 will be a year of significant challenge and that the dividend payment will be £1,000,000—a shortfall of £200,000.

An operational target has been set to achieve room occupancy within the centre of 60 per cent. of capacity. If this target is exceeded all revenues received up to a maximum of £200,000 will be added to the dividend payment of £1,000,000 thus reducing, or if trading conditions allow, eradicating the shortfall.

The Agency also has the following quality of service targets:

Overall score for value for money satisfaction of greater than 90 per cent.;

The number of complaints received to be less than two per 100 events; and

An average response time when answering complaints of less than four working days.

Return on Capital Employed

HM Treasury set an annual return on capital employed of 6 per cent. for the Centre's trading fund activities.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I would like to inform the House about the latest situation in Sri Lanka.

On 19 May, the Sri Lankan President formally announced that on 18 May military forces had retaken all the territory once held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and that they had captured or killed the senior leadership of that organisation. Many Sri Lankans of all communities, Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim, will be relieved that the long and brutal conflict may at last be over. Sri Lanka has before it an historic opportunity to resolve the underlying causes of the conflict and ensure a lasting peace. We must continue to work with Sri Lanka's Government and all their communities to ensure that this opportunity is taken and that it leads to a sustainable end to the conflict.

Our concern has never been whether it was right to defeat the LTTE. The issue has been the price in lives and the future in terms of reconciliation. We may never know exact numbers but thousands of innocent civilians have died, hundreds of thousands made homeless and confined to camps, caught up in a system which continues to restrict access to the international humanitarian agencies. For many, many people, the misery continues.

Our primary concern remains the immediate humanitarian crisis and the long-term political and economic peace and stability of Sri Lanka. We have continued to work with international partners in the EU, UN, and G8 to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to do all that they could to protect their citizens, minimise the risk of casualties and allow the UN and other international agencies access to the conflict area to oversee the possible surrender of the LTTE and the evacuation of the civilians. We also called on the LTTE to lay down their weapons and release the civilians. Tragically, these calls did not prevent the loss of many lives.

I welcome the assurance given to me by Foreign Minister Bogollogama yesterday that the UN and non-governmental organisations will now be able to enter the former conflict zone to provide whatever support is still needed. I would like to pay tribute to the courage of the staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross and others who continued to try and deliver food, water and medical supplies into the conflict zone at enormous risk to themselves. Undoubtedly, their bravery in the face of great danger saved the death toll from being higher.

Although the territorial conflict seems to be over, the grave humanitarian crisis continues to unfold. Some 250,000 civilians who have fled the fighting are either being processed by the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that they are not escaping LTTE members, or are being held in camps. The Government does not have the resources to cope, but they have not yet offered international aid agencies unrestricted access to the camps. This risks exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and fuelling the resentment of the internally displaced people (IDPs). We urge the Government of Sri Lanka to allow full and unhindered access to the camps where the IDPs remain in urgent need of shelter, food, water, and medicine. The Government of Sri Lanka has also already committed to resettle 80 per cent. of IDPs before the end of this year. This will be a difficult task.

We and others in the international community stand ready to assist the Government of Sri Lanka to meet these humanitarian challenges. The Department for International Development has recently announced an additional £5 million of humanitarian funding for Sri Lanka, bringing our total contribution to the humanitarian relief effort to £12.5 million since September 2008. We will channel this funding through the UN and other humanitarian agencies. We urge the Government of Sri Lanka to use the opportunity of the visits by the UN Secretary General's Chief of Staff Vijay Nambiar and the UN Secretary General himself later this week, to recognise that the UN has a central role to play, both in the delivery of humanitarian aid and in encouraging the process of political reconciliation that must be an integral part of rebuilding Sri Lanka's civil society.

Lasting peace can only come when all communities in Sri Lanka believe that they are accepted and valued members of society. We recognise that the process of political reconciliation will not be easy. There are many entrenched attitudes and resentments. Sri Lankan people from all communities, working on the basis of mutual

respect and equality, need to agree the way forward. On 18 May my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister urged President Rajapakse to be magnanimous in victory. I repeated the message to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister the same day, saying that whatever process emerged, it needed to be inclusive and based on equality. We welcome the President's statement to the Sri Lankan Parliament on 19 May that he will embark on an inclusive political process involving all communities on the basis of equality and absence of fear.

I endorse the conclusions reached at the European Council on 18 May calling for alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law to be investigated through an independent inquiry and for those accountable to be brought to justice. This could play an important role in the post-conflict reconciliation process.

The continuing focus of this Government's activity over the coming days and weeks will be to work with international partners in encouraging the Sri Lankan Government to devote as much energy to winning the peace as it did to winning the war.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Policing and Crime Bill (JCHR Reports)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker): The Government response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights reports on the Policing and Crime Bill (published on 16 April and 5 May 2009), has today been published and laid before Parliament. Copies are available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Employment Tribunal Awards

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Today I am announcing publication of the Ministry of Justice's report 'Research into Enforcement of Employment Tribunal Awards in England and Wales', which details the extent of non-payment of employment tribunal awards, and measures that the Government are developing, aimed at improving the enforcement of employment tribunal awards and Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) negotiated settlements.

The Government have begun discussions with the High Court Enforcement Officers Association to develop a service whereby creditors will be able to commission a high court enforcement officer to enforce their award or settlement as soon as the respondent fails to pay the sum due. The costs of enforcement will be recoverable from the respondent with limited cost liability for the creditor.

In addition, the Government have recently increased the level of public information available to individuals through the creation of new leaflets that make the enforcement process clearer and explain the importance of compliance with the award and the consequences of failure to make a payment.

Claimants will also benefit from the extension of the customer service general enquiries line, operated by Her Majesty's Court Service, which has been extended to give creditors clear instructions on how and where they can enforce their employment tribunal award or ACAS settlement.

The Government are determined to ensure that individuals who are entitled to their employment tribunal awards or ACAS settlements are not denied access to justice by a small minority of unscrupulous individuals or companies who refuse to respect the award or settlement. These changes will ensure that all recipients can pursue the payment of their award or settlement with ease.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available on the Ministry of Justice website at www.justice.gov.uk.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 makes provision for the constitution of the four Boundary Commissions, including the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland. Under paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the Act, each Commission must consist of a Chairman, Deputy Chairman and two other members appointed by the Secretary of State. Following an open recruitment process to fill a vacancy, I have appointed Dr William Smith as a member of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland for a period of five years.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee's Review (London Terrorist Attacks)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today laid before the House the Intelligence and Security Committee's review of the intelligence on the London terrorist attacks in July 2005 (Cm 7617).

I would like to convey once again my condolences to the families of those killed and pay tribute to the courage shown by the survivors of the July 7 bombings.

I am grateful to the Committee for its work in producing this review. It is the product of careful and extensive research. The material published today testifies not only to the Committee' thoroughness, but also to the Government's commitment to accountability and transparency in matters related to the intelligence and security agencies. As usual, this follows consultation with the Committee over material that could not be published without prejudicing the work of the agencies. Publication of this review has been delayed as a result of related legal proceedings.

The Government accept the Committee's assessment that decisions made during the 'Crevice' investigations were understandable and reasonable in the light of information available at the time, and in the context of the increasing number of priority investigations occurring at the same time. The review shows that there is no evidence to support various allegations about clues or ignored warnings. The police and the intelligence and security agencies receive many pieces of intelligence on potential terrorist threats from multiple sources. Intelligence is often fragmentary and of varying reliability; and terrorists go to great lengths to conceal their intentions.

Analytical judgments and decisions have to be made on the basis of the information available at that time, and the prudence of those decisions can only properly be assessed in that context—not with the benefit of hindsight.

The Committee rightly points to the need for improvements in exploiting information held by the police and the intelligence and security agencies, and in maintaining statistics on terrorist-related convictions. These issues are being addressed, as is reflected in the Government's new 'Contest' counter-terrorism strategy, published earlier this year.

Additional resources were provided by the Government for counter-terrorism work in both the 2004 and 2007 spending reviews. There has been a significant increase in dedicated police counter-terrorism resources; and the intelligence and security agencies have also expanded and continue to expand resources to develop their capabilities. Lessons have been learned from each investigation. The police and the agencies have helped to save many lives and prevented serious injuries and disruption. However, as the Committee makes clear, there can be no absolute guarantee in terms of disrupting terrorist attacks.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 20 May 2009

TREASURY

UK Debt Management Office

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The UK Debt Management Office (DMO) has today published its business plan for the year 2009-10. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and from DMO's website, www.dmo.gov.uk.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces' Pay Review Body

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): The Supplement to the 2009 Report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) making recommendations on the pay of service medical and dental officers has been published today. I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the review body for their report. I am pleased to confirm that the AFPRB's recommendations are to be accepted in full, with implementation effective from 1 April 2009.

The AFPRB has recommended an increase in basic military salary of 1.5 per cent. for all defence medical services (DMS) medical and dental officers, and all reserve equivalents. In addition, the AFPRB recommended a 1.5 per cent. increase in the values of national clinical excellence awards and distinction awards, DMS trainer pay and general medical practitioner associate trainer pay.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister responsible for farming and the environment, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy), and the Under-Secretary responsible for the natural and marine environment, wildlife and rural affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies), represented the United Kingdom at April's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. Richard Lochhead also attended.

There were only five substantive agenda items—three for fisheries and two for agriculture—and a number of AOB items.

On fisheries, the Council adopted conclusions, which had been agreed in advance, welcoming the Commission's recent action plan on sharks. The action plan set out some principles and future work streams regarding the conservation of sharks, rays and chimeras, which are vulnerable species.

The Commission then gave a brief initial presentation of the Green Paper on Common Fisheries Policy Reform. It stressed that there was a need for fundamental reforms and insisted that member states should not stand in the way of necessary reform; the long-term interest of all was in creating sustainable fish stocks. A more thorough discussion on the Green Paper will take place at the Council in May.

Next, the Commission introduced its communication on the sustainable development of Community aquaculture. It had concerns that EU production was stagnating while demand was increasing, the gap being filled by imports from third countries. It warned, however, that there was no additional funding available. There will be a full debate on this issue at the June Council.

There were four fisheries AOB items. Spain highlighted its concern about the problem of Somalian piracy and called on the Council to take appropriate measures that might include extending the range of the EU NAVFOR Somalia/ATALANTA operation and the establishment of an operating base in the area.

The Netherlands then explained that the official Dutch control body had recently prevented exports of glass eels outside the Community. They wanted a similar ban at EU level.

The Netherlands also raised concerns that the increased activity in coastal zones of gill net fishing has had a negative effect on the porpoise population. They called for EU measures to limit the use of gill nets and entangling nets for all vessels not just the over 10 metre ones.

The Commission expressed its concern that the slow implementation of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) budget commitments by member states was delaying the spending of the available funds. They identified the main problem as being delays in putting the management and control plans in place.

On agriculture, the presidency introduced its questionnaire seeking member states views on CAP simplification to date; Commission ambition regarding further simplification; and the role Payment Agencies might play in the debate going forward. Member states rehearsed familiar views, all of whom supported further simplification with an emphasis on control burdens and cross compliance. Denmark tabled a list of 39 specific proposals for simplification, which 12 member states, including the UK, signed as co-sponsors. Denmark called for the creation of a high-level group for simplification to consider its proposals and for a commitment from the Commission to report on progress to the October Council.

The Commission then presented its Communication on Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) stressing that its review was limited to intermediate LFA; that is, areas with natural handicaps, encompassing neither mountainous regions nor areas with specific handicaps. The Communication responded to a call from the Council for reform in 2005 and to a 2003 Court of Auditors report, which pointed up shortcomings with the existing instrument. Application of the existing instrument was flawed on two counts: (1) it was based on socioeconomic criteria, whereas the challenge was to address land-use

problems not income levels; and (2) there was little coherence at EU level about what constituted an area with a natural handicap leading inevitably to inequalities.

The Communication also constituted the initiation of a technical exercise wherein member states were required to simulate the application of biophysical criteria for areas with natural handicaps, reporting back to the Commission with detailed maps of their findings in six months' time. Only after the completion of this technical exercise would the Commission come forward with legislative proposals. The new definition would not come into force until the next programming period; that is, post-2013. The presidency concluded that it would put draft Council conclusions to the June Council.

There were four agriculture AOB items. Denmark tabled a paper urging the Commission to take a more proportionate approach to financial corrections in respect of farm payment irregularities. Flat-rate corrections often overstated the real risk for Community funds. The process was also too drawn-out and needed to be speeded up.

Germany called on the Commission to permit partial payments to be advanced to farmers before the opening of the existing payment window and without checks having being completed on the respective claims.

Ireland rehearsed the March Council debate on the perceived difficulties in the dairy sector, eliciting merely a reiteration of the Commission's position.

Belgium rehearsed the March Council debate on the perceived difficulties in the pigmeat sector, again eliciting merely a reiteration of the Commission's position.

HEALTH

Lord Archer's Report (Government Response)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): I am today publishing the Government's response to Lord Archer's independent inquiry report on NHS supplied contaminated blood and blood products.

I thank Lord Archer for his very thorough report. The Government have the greatest sympathy for those who have been affected, and deeply regret that these events came about following NHS treatment.

I have carefully considered the recommendations of Lord Archer, particularly relating to payments for infected individuals and their families. My full response details the action we are taking, but I want to highlight the following points.

The Macfarlane Trust and Eileen Trust provide ex gratia lump sum and discretionary payments to, respectively, haemophiliacs and others, who contracted HIV from infected blood and blood products, and their dependents. Over £45million has been paid out to date and there are currently around 600 beneficiaries.

I recognise Lord Archer's concern about financial relief. I therefore intend to increase the funding available to the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts to allow them to move to a system of annual payments for infected individuals. The current average annual payment is around £6,400. I intend that in future payments of £12,800 per annum would be made to each infected individual, thus eliminating the need for them to make repeated detailed applications. I will also increase the funding available to the trusts so that the trustees can make higher payments to dependents. Payment to dependents will continue to be decided on a case-by-case basis—and left to the decision of the trustees.

The Skipton Fund provides lump sum payments to people infected with hepatitis C from infected blood and blood products. To date £97million has been paid out to over 4000 individuals.

The Skipton Fund will continue to make payments to people infected with hepatitis C and I commit to reviewing it in 2014 when the fund will have been in existence for ten years.

I understand Lord Archer's desire to establish a committee by statute to advise Government on the management of haemophilia in the United Kingdom. My view is that it is better to build on existing arrangements and expertise, rather than risk disrupting or duplicating those arrangements via legislation.

I have therefore decided instead to invite the Haemophilia Alliance, which comprises patients, haemophilia doctors, and others involved in their care, to meet with Government twice yearly. The Department of Health will host these meetings and representatives from the Health Departments in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will be invited to participate in this new formal arrangement.

I will also commit £100,000 per annum funding to the Haemophilia Society over the next five years.

Measures are already in place to help to prevent similar events from happening in the future. The Government receive expert advice on safety measures from the independent advisory committee on the safety of blood tissues and organs (SaBTO), and NHS Blood and Transplant is responsible for ensuring a safe and sufficient supply of blood to England and Wales. I will also ensure strong links are made between SaBTO and the Alliance.

The full response to Lord Archer's report has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 21 May 2009

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 5 May 2009. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury represented the UK. The following items were discussed:

Economic and financial situation

Following the publication of the European Commission's forecasts on 4 May, Ministers exchanged views on the economic situation. The Government believe there is a continued need for member states to work together in ensuring a co-ordinated response to the crisis.

Lending to member states in financial difficulty

Ministers discussed and agreed a draft regulation, raising the ceiling for lending from €25 billion to €50 billion for medium-term support to the balance of payments for non euro-area member states under the EU's support facility. The Council also agreed to provide medium-term assistance to Romania. ECOFIN will adopt the regulation at a forthcoming meeting without further discussion, following finalisation of the text. The Government strongly welcome the measures, which are in line with our policy of supporting the principle of ensuring that member states facing balance of payments difficulties have access to financial assistance.

Quality and sustainability of public finances

Ministers took note of a report by the Commission on age-related economic and budgetary projections for EU member states and adopted a set of conclusions on structural reforms to enhance the long-term sustainability and quality of public finances. The Government believe in the importance of sustainability and quality of public finances, particularly in the current juncture.

Dialogue with third countries on economic and financial issues

The Commission updated the Council on progress in its dialogues with the EU's main international partners, mainly the United States, Japan, China and Russia, regarding macro-economic issues and financial services. Ministers discussed the priorities for the near future. The Government welcome these ongoing dialogues, which reflect the discussions under-way in the G20.

Taxation

(a) Tobacco Directive

Ministers discussed the terms of the Tobacco Directive, aimed at updating EU rules on the structure and rates of excise duties on tobacco products. A revised draft was tabled at the meeting, but a number of Ministers expressed unhappiness with it. The Council requested that officials continue to examine the draft directive so that it may be revisited at a later meeting of ECOFIN.

(b) Communication on promoting good governance in tax matters

The Council took note of the Commission's presentation of its communication on the promotion of good governance in tax matters. The Commission also briefed Ministers on progress in the negotiation of an agreement with Liechtenstein on measures to combat tax fraud. Preparatory committees will further examine the communication before it is discussed at ECOFIN in June. The Government support efforts by the Commission on good governance in tax matters which complement existing work by the G20.

General budget of the European Union - preliminary draft budget 2010

The Commission presented the proposed EC Budget for 2010 to the Council, marking the beginning of the 2010 Annual Budget negotiations, which will run until December. The UK supports a realistic budget which promotes sound financial management. This item will return to the ECOFIN agenda in July, after further work by the COREPER.

Other business

The presidency updated ECOFIN on the state of play of four financial services dossiers: Solvency II, the e-money directive, the cross-border payments regulation and the regulation on credit rating agencies. On all four dossiers, the presidency reached agreement with the European Parliament in first reading, enabling adoption by the Council at a forthcoming meeting, once the texts have been finalised.

Finance Bill (Anti-avoidance Measure)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): An avoidance scheme has been notified to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) that exploits the fact that Corporation Tax (CT) rules provide that losses, arising in a trade in the 12 months prior to its cessation, may be carried back and set off against profits made in the previous three years ("Terminal Loss Relief").

The scheme works by artificially engineering a deemed cessation of trading. The deemed cessation of trading means that the company gains access to relief for the losses much earlier than Parliament intended and undermines Clause 23 in the current Bill.

HMRC believe that the scheme is capable of being used by a large number of companies with the consequent risk of a significant loss of revenue. Therefore, in order to protect the Exchequer, the Government will introduce legislation by Government Amendment to Finance Bill 2009, to stop companies exploiting these rules for the purposes of tax avoidance. The legislation, which will be effective in relation to reorganisations taking place on or after today, is today being published on HMRC's website.

The new clause will address situations where there has not been, in any real sense, a cessation of the trade but it is claimed that a cessation occurs as a result of the trade being transferred to a person or persons outside the scope of CT and it can be established that this is part of a scheme or arrangement, one of the main purposes of which is to access 'terminal loss relief'.

In such circumstances 'terminal loss relief' will not be available to the transferring entity. As a consequence of the scheme, carried forward losses relating to the trade will not be transferred to the receiving person(s) for set off against future profits.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): On 8 May 2008 we introduced through the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1085) the new, devolved conduct regime for local authority members, in which responsibility for standards of conduct and dealing with allegations of misconduct by members is largely for each council's independently chaired standards committee with the Standards Board for England having the role of a strategic regulator.

I have today laid before the House the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009, further developing the devolved conduct regime by allowing councils to set up joint standards committees and making clearer the rules for such committees to grant dispensation to members who would otherwise be excluded from an item of business on the grounds of conflict of interest. The regulations also strengthen the Standards Board's regulatory role by enabling it to intervene in cases of poor performance by a council's standards committee.

These regulations, which we have prepared in consultation with the local government sector, will come into force on 15 June. The next development of the regime will be a revision to the code of conduct in the light of our consultation last year and experience to date.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): In accordance with section 14(3), 14(4) and 14(5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC prepared a report on the operation of the Act in 2008, which I laid before the House on 3 February 2009.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for another considered review. Following consultation within my Department and with other relevant agencies, I am pleased to lay before Parliament today my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations. Copies are available in the Vote Office.

I am also laying before Parliament today my response to the report on the "Renewal of the Control Order Legislation" by the Joint Committee on Human Rights, published on 27 February 2009. Copies are available in the Vote Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sri Lanka

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Michael Foster): Thousands of people remain in desperate need. The priority is to get assistance to those that need it now. How quickly the international agencies are able to do this depends in significant part on the level of access granted by the Government of Sri Lanka for humanitarian agencies. I would like to assure the House that the humanitarian situation on the ground remains our priority and that we are fully focused on averting a humanitarian crisis. We remain particularly concerned about two groups of displaced people (IDPs).

There are more than 80,000 civilians and war wounded between Kilinochchi and Omanthai and onwards to the camps in Vavuniya. At present, there is no access to this area for any humanitarian agency. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has raised its particular concern for the safety of the war wounded needing urgent medical care who have been left behind in the former conflict area. Our second concern is for the 200,000 plus IDPs who are currently in camps. Priority needs are shelter, food, water, medicine and immediate access to surgical treatment. Conditions in the camps are basic but they are improving, albeit slowly. It is vital that these IDPs are allowed to return home as soon as conditions allow.

There are, however, specific concerns which need to be addressed before humanitarian agencies can provide the support needed. Visa restrictions are still being imposed on agencies, including those with surgical teams on stand-by to assist the thousands of war wounded who await life saving treatment. Practical restrictions are also still being imposed on entry to the camps and on the supply of basic relief items like water and sanitation equipment. We encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to do everything possible to allow humanitarian agencies to operate effectively on the ground.

We continue to engage fully with international and multilateral partners. I spoke to Sir John Holmes, the UN emergency relief co-ordinator, yesterday about the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka and the issues that lie ahead. Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Secretary General, is visiting Sri Lanka soon to focus on the immediate humanitarian relief effort and reintegration and reconstruction as well as the need for a sustainable and equitable political solution.

DFID continues to make financial contributions to the relief effort in Sri Lanka as the situation on the ground allows. Last week I approved £0.5 million for the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) to establish, equip and staff 10 emergency mobile health clinics in the camps in Vavuniya, Mannar and Jaffna. The Secretary of State recently announced a further £5 million of humanitarian funding to Sri Lanka which will be used for activities such as demining and livelihood recovery and we will provide further assistance as people are allowed to return to their homes. The total now stands at £12.5 million. All DFID funding is provided directly to impartial international agencies such as the International Organisation for Migration and United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. None of the UK's assistance is provided directly to the Government of Sri Lanka. DFID will continue to support the international agencies in their work.

WALES

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the explanatory memorandum setting out proposals for the framework powers in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill are available in the Library, the Vote Office and on the Wales Office website (www.walesoffice.gov.uk).

Legislative Competence Order

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Health and Health Services and Social Welfare) Order 2009 dealing with Mental Health has been laid today as Command Paper (Cm 7627). This order has been proposed by a backbench Member of the National Assembly for Wales (Jonathan Morgan) and has the support of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Copies of this Command Paper can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Petition

Tuesday 5 May 2009

OBSERVATIONS

WORK AND PENSIONS

Health and Safety Executive (London Headquarters)

The Petition of the Public and Commercial Services Union,

Declares that the Petitioners are seriously concerned about the closure of the Health and Safety Executive's London Headquarters; further declares that the business case for the single Headquarters assumed that 40 per cent. would move to Liverpool; notes that so far only 12 staff (4 per cent.) have expressed an interest in moving; and further notes that this means that 310 people will lose their jobs with HSE losing the competence, knowledge and know-how of a significant portion of their workforce.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to reconsider the closure of the Health and Safety Executive's London Headquarters.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Simon Hughes, Official Report,* 1 April 2009; Vol. 490, c. 1014.]

[P000346]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

The Government believes there are significant benefits for the Health and Safety Executive in moving to a single HQ. Housing the Executive Leadership and the majority of its strategy, policy, operational planning and management, and corporate support teams under one roof will lead to a more effective organisation, better placed to protect workers and the public.

The decision to move was taken in the best interests of the whole organisation and over 10 years, will realise predicted net savings of between £47 million and £61 million. These savings will be invested in interventions to reduce accidents and ill health. The move is also in step with the Government's policy of reducing the number of posts in London and increasing the efficiency of its estate. Around two thirds of the staff affected have secured jobs in HSE or in other parts of the civil service. The assumption that 40 per cent. of staff would move to Liverpool was made at the outset of the programme and was for the sole purpose of enabling an initial estimate of the costs of the programme to be produced.

The Government has recognised from the outset that there are risks to business continuity from the creation of a single HQ, but considers that these risks are being properly managed. This is also the view of Judith Hackitt, Chair of HSE and the HSE Board. HSE's approach to the identification and management of risks from the single HQ has been endorsed by the independent Office of Government Commerce (OGC) reviews. Through recruitment of new staff to Bootle, retention of key London staff through the transition process, flexibility to adapt the pace of change to any emerging pressures and continual senior management oversight, HSE has and will continue to maintain business continuity and deliver the major benefits that the single HQ will bring.

Petitions

Friday 8 May 2009

Observations

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Interpreting

The Petition of persons concerned at the treatment of nationally registered interpreters,

Declares that the Greater Manchester Police are currently considering outsourcing provision of face-to-face interpreters to a commercial intermediary; further declares that registered interpreters are not prepared to work for an intermediary and that Greater Manchester Police would no longer be able to obtain their services should they outsource;

Notes that data obtained pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 show that outsourcing can lead to the use of persons purporting to be interpreters who are not on the National Register (which is stipulated as the first port of call by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform) or any of the other lists authorised by the National Agreement;

Believes that competent, vetted and professional interpreters are an integral part of the Criminal Justice System, ensuring a just and fair delivery of justice; further believes that taxpayers are entitled to see their money spent on a high quality service which will aid the administration of justice for ethnic minorities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Home Secretary to do all in her power to persuade Greater Manchester Police to treat the profession with the respect it deserves and to include registered interpreters in any future consultations which may affect their livelihoods and profession; the petitioner further requests that the House of Commons urges the Home Secretary to intervene where police forces do not abide by the terms of the National Agreement.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report,* 9 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 127.]

[P000322]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Code of Practice C for the detention, treatment, and questioning of persons by police officers, issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984, provides that the chief police officer for the individual force concerned is responsible for making sure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the provision of suitably qualified interpreters for people who are deaf or who do not understand or speak English. The Code states that, wherever possible, interpreters should be drawn from the National Register of Public Service Interprets (NRPSI).

The National Agreement on Arrangements for the Use of Interpreters and Translators in the Criminal Justice System indicates that an interpreter must be used from the National Register, where possible.

The Association of Chief Police Officers wrote to all chief officers in April 2008 reminding them that they should follow the National Agreement and the benefits of using an interpreter from the NRPSI. The letter further advised that any forces considering or which already outsourcing interpreting service must ensure that the outsourcing process does not compromise compliance with the standards set out in the National Agreement.

Chief Officers are required to achieve value for money and to ensure compliance with rights and safeguards for the individual as set out in legislation. The Government understands that ACPO consider that there is no evidence to support the claim that these rights and safeguards are not being delivered.

The Government is also informed that ACPO has the utmost respect for interpreters who are drawn from the NRPSI. The issues around outsourcing are about availability of interpreters and timeliness of their arrival at the police station. These are issues which will be looked at with colleagues, stakeholders and practitioners in the criminal justice system.

Petitions

Tuesday 12 May 2009

OBSERVATIONS

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Gaza

The Petition of persons concerned at the BBC's decision not to air the DEC's Gaza Appeal

Declares that the International Committee of the Red Cross has said that conditions for the people of Gaza are "worse than Darfur" but the BBC refuses to allow the Disasters Emergency Committee to broadcast an appeal for aid; further declares the petitioners' agreement with Government Health Minister Ben Bradshaw, who has said the reasons the BBC has given for blocking an appeal for humanitarian aid are "completely feeble" and that it was "an inexplicable decision".

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to do everything in its power to urge the BBC to reconsider its decision and to contact the Disasters Emergency Committee as a matter of urgency so that its appeal can be broadcast nationally.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report,* 10 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 270.]

[P000323]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

This is a matter for the BBC. Under the terms of the BBC's Charter and Agreement, the BBC is independent of Government and there is no provision for Government to intervene in the BBC's day-to-day editorial matters.

The BBC Charter and Agreement contain specific and detailed provisions on impartiality. A requirement has been placed on the BBC to treat controversial subjects with due accuracy and impartiality, both in the Corporation's news services and in the more general field of programmes dealing with matters of public policy or industrial controversy.

Within this framework, it is the BBC's job to make judgments about what individual programmes should contain. It is a long-standing principle that the Government do not interfere in programme matters, either on arrangements for scheduling or on content.

Petitions

Wednesday 13 May 2009

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing (London Borough of Sutton)

The Petition of tenants of the London Borough of Sutton, and others,

Declares that, through the rents they pay, council tenants are net contributors to the Exchequer, paying more to the Treasury in negative subsidy than the Treasury pays out in subsidy with current estimates putting the profit from rents to the Government in 2008-09 at £185 million to £200 million; regrets the fact that the review of housing revenue account subsidy is not yet complete and believes that the current system is unfair and unsustainable; further declares that in the current climate and times of hardship for many, rent increases of over 6 per cent. driven by the Government's rent restructuring policy is unjust; further declares that the £10 million taken from Sutton tenants for last year will be increased by three quarters of a million pounds this year which now represents 38 per cent. of rent income.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to reform the system to allow tenants to benefit directly from the rent they pay through investment in the condition of their homes and the quality of the services they receive and to reduce the amount of negative subsidy or at least freeze it until the review is finalised.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report,* 25 March 2009; Vol. 490, c. 420 .]

[P000124]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government acknowledges and fully understands the concerns of tenants regarding the present system of council housing finance, which results in the redistribution of subsidy between areas based on need.

The Minister for Housing and Planning has responded to recent extraordinary conditions regarding the sharp fall in inflation and announced on 6 March 2009 proposals to halve the average guideline rent increase for 2009-10. The proposal should significantly reduce the overall Housing Revenue Account negative subsidy position for England. Communities and Local Government has already committed to looking again at the guideline increase for 2010-11. With regard to overall spending on housing, HM Treasury's planned investment in 2009-10 is approximately £6.9 billion.

The Review of Council Housing Finance was launched in March 2008 and is scheduled to report to Ministers in 2009. The Review is looking at all aspects of system reform, including the feasibility of "self-financing" where local authorities could exit the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. It has examined the case for continuing the substantial investment in social housing stock that began with the Decent Homes programme and which has resulted in more than £29 billion being invested up to 2007-08. Other areas of scrutiny have included rents policy, the role of the landlord and service provision, the treatment of debt in the system, and the case for maintaining a centralised, redistributive system. A period of consultation will follow the Review.

It would not have been possible to complete the Review any earlier due to the complex nature of the system and the many inter-related components which affect it, the commitment to involve stakeholders throughout the process, and the need to gather evidence to support its conclusions.

Eastham Library

The Petition of residents of Eastham, and others,

Declares that the decision by Wirral's Cabinet to either close Eastham Library or transfer it to community ownership is wrong in both form and substance; further declares that the concept of community transfer has not been sufficiently thought through here and it will give rise to widespread concern about the future of the facility; notes that since Eastham Library was previously recommended by Wirral Council "to be retained", the people of Eastham have not been given any chance to respond to the consultation and make their views known; and further notes that the people of Eastham, as the rest of Wirral South, see themselves as always getting short shrift in relation to the North of Wirral.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to encourage Wirral Council to reconsider its decision to close Eastham Library if community ownership cannot be found by end of June 2009.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ben Chapman, Official Report,* 17 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 881 .]

[P000136]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns expressed regarding the closure of Eastham Library.

I understand that Wirral undertook a Strategic Asset Review to look at making the best use of its resources, its objective being to improve service delivery, offer better value for money, and support regeneration of the whole borough. A six-week consultation was undertaken which concluded that in total eleven out of 24 libraries should close. In particular, two libraries that had been earmarked for closure would remain open, but a further two would close, one of these being Eastham Library.

The Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport has intervened under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and has ordered an inquiry into the proposals.

In the light of this action all closures have been postponed.

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of Graham Brucci, residents of the Dutch Village and others,

Declares that Castle Point Councillors are wrong to seek to develop the fields behind Limburg Road and Holland Avenue with an estate of 400 houses; believes

that this would put Canvey's roads and other infrastructure under intolerable pressure; notes that this area is subject to flooding and should be controlled under Environment Agency flood protection development policies; further believes that there is sufficient brown field land to meet the target for new build and that councillors should consult residents properly and listen to them more seriously, should improve Canvey's infrastructure and change their plans to cram yet more housing estates on the Island.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to make it clear to Castle Point council that it will uphold the Environment Agency's rules on development in flood risk areas, that the Council should provide better infrastructure and should protect Castle Point Green Belt.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 11 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 402 .]

[P000329]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government understands that no planning application has yet been made to Castle Point Borough Council in respect of this proposal. If an application is submitted before the council reach their decision they must take into account: the provisions of the development plan for the area; any relevant views expressed by neighbouring occupiers, local residents and other third parties; and any other relevant material considerations which fairly and reasonably relate to the application concerned. They should also be guided by the policies and advice set out in the Department's Planning Policy Guidance Notes, Statements (PPGs and PPSs) and planning circulars.

Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), Development and Flood Risk, provides the policy framework for local planning authorities to avoid, manage and reduce flood risk to new development without exposure to unnecessary flood risk. This is supported by the Practice Guide published in June 2008 to assist local planners in implementing PPS25 policy.

There is an urgent need for more housing development in this country. The location of new housing is very important, to ensure new development is in sustainable locations. It is also important amongst many other issues, that the character of settlements are protected as appropriate, and that the countryside is protected for its own sake if appropriate to do so.

In considering planning applications, Castle Point Borough Council is required to take into account the relevant policies in the development plan. The Government's statements of national planning policy, such as Planning Policy Guidance 2 "Green Belts", are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

On 9 January 2009, Castle Point Borough Council published for consultation its "Core Strategy Proposed Publication Document". It should be noted that the "Core Strategy Proposed Publication Document" (LDF), does not allocate any sites as such but indicates the broad locations where the development will occur. Its consultation period ended on 20 March.

Should an application be made, the Council will be required to publicise it in order that the public, statutory consultees and other interested parties may make known their views.

Public Libraries (Wirral)

The Petition of residents of Higher Bebington, and others.

Declares that the decision by Wirral's Council to close Higher Bebington Library does not take into account the high regard in which it is valued by local residents and users; further declares that there was strong representation for the retention of Higher Bebington Library during Wirral's consultation period over its Strategic Asset Review; notes that Higher Bebington would benefit from the continued existence of a library facility in the sense that it serves just that community; and further notes that the concept of community transfer (which, according to Wirral Council, could be "vigorously pursued" after the closure of Higher Bebington Library) has not been sufficiently thought through.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Wirral Council to reconsider its decision to close Higher Bebington Library.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ben Chapman, Official Report,* 1 April 2009; Vol. 490, c. 1041 .]

[P000345]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns expressed regarding the closure of Higher Bebington Library.

I understand that Wirral undertook a Strategic Asset Review to look at making the best use of its resources, its objective being to improve service delivery, offer better value for money, and support regeneration of the whole borough. A six-week consultation was undertaken, which concluded that in total 11 out of 24 libraries should close, Higher Bebington Library being one of the 11 identified for closure. As part of the review Wirral Council is proposing a number of multi-purpose complexes across the Wirral, one of which will be sited in Bebington.

The Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport has intervened under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and has recently appointed Sue Charteris to carry out an inquiry into the public library service in the Wirral. Her report is due in June and the Secretary of State's decision will follow shortly after.

In the light of this action all closures have been postponed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka

The Petition of supporters of members of the Tamil Diaspora in the United Kingdom.

Declares their deep concern about the current humanitarian crisis facing the Tamil people in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to call on the Sri Lankan Government for an immediate ceasefire to be implemented to prevent the unnecessary loss of innocent civilian lives; to recognise the right of the Tamil community on the island to self-determination; and to allow all necessary humanitarian aid and international aid workers into the conflict zone in northern and eastern Sri Lanka instead of calling for the Tamil people to leave their traditional homes and villages.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Parmjit Dhanda, Official Report, 22 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 337.]*

[P000154]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

I remain extremely concerned about the current situation in northern Sri Lanka. The most pressing concern remains for the safety of the tens of thousands of civilians that humanitarian agencies estimate remain caught up in the fighting. It was our concern for their safety that led my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to first call for a ceasefire on 14 January. I have repeated the call for a ceasefire on numerous occasions, most recently during my visit to Sri Lanka with French Foreign Minister Kouchner on 29 April.

Both Foreign Minister Kouchner and I welcomed reports that significant numbers of civilians have been able to leave the conflict area over the last few weeks. The Government of Sri Lanka's announcement of a cessation in combat operations using heavy weapons is a welcome first step, but there are credible reports that civilians continue to be killed and wounded every day as a result of the fighting. We condemn the killing of civilians in the strongest possible terms and we have repeatedly called on both the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law. It is essential that both sides do everything possible to avoid harming civilians and ensure vital aid reaches those civilians who need it.

We are also concerned about the conditions facing the internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have managed to escape the fighting. We have made clear to the Government of Sri Lanka that more needs to be done to provide them with humanitarian and medical aid, specifically: visas and travel permits should be issued swiftly to humanitarian staff; full access should be given by humanitarian agencies to IDPs as soon as they have crossed the front line and the monitoring of all stages of screening; a proper resettlement programme should be developed with specific deadlines to fulfil the Government of Sri Lanka's commitment to have 80 per cent. of IDPs returned to their homes by year's end; and improved distribution of sufficient food and medicine to meet the needs of civilians trapped in the conflict zone. We are pressing the Government of Sri Lanka to fulfil the commitments it has made to improve conditions in the IDP camps and we are working with a number of independent agencies to ensure these standards are met.

The (UK) Government have taken practical steps to alleviate the suffering of civilians. On 26 April, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister pledged a further £2.5 million for humanitarian aid for displaced persons, taking the total UK humanitarian assistance to £7.5 million. My hon. Friend the Member for Worcester (Mr. Foster), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, visited Sri Lanka on 27 April to conduct an humanitarian assessment. Following my visit with Foreign Minister Kouchner, on 4 and 5 May, a cross party group of MPs, including my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne), held talks with the Sri Lankan Government, humanitarian agencies and visited the IDP camps.

The Government want to contribute to a renewed drive for a political solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka. We believe that for peace to be sustainable, an inclusive political process that takes into account fully the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankan communities, Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim, is essential.

The UK remains active in the UN, EU, G8 and with other key international partners, including the US and India, to ensure that the spotlight of international concern remains firmly on the situation in Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka can be in no doubt about the depth of feeling in the international community regarding the need for a ceasefire and for a co-ordinated humanitarian relief effort to alleviate the suffering of innocent civilians.

Petition

Thursday 14 May 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY
Tax (Alcohol)

The Petition of residents of Plymouth

Declares that the tax on beer sold in pubs should not be increased annually.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons ask the Chancellor to remove the beer escalator on beer sold in pubs in his forthcoming budget

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Linda Gilroy, Official Report,* 20 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 122 .]

[P000349]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

Alcohol duty is an important revenue stream for the Government and as the hon. Member is probably already aware Budget 2009 increased alcohol duty by 2 per cent. The additional revenue raised from the increase in alcohol duty will support the public finances. All alcohol receives the same tax treatment regardless of where it is sold. Under EU tax legislation, it is not possible to provide tax reliefs targeted specifically at helping pubs such as levying a reduced rate of alcohol duty on cask beer or taxing beer sold in supermarkets differently from that sold in a pub. The EU definition of beer does not include a reference to how it is packaged or served. Therefore beer wherever it is sold has to be taxed at the same rate. However, we have introduced a range of measures that will support the British pub. These include:

Enabling pubs to spread payment of this year's inflation uprating to business rates over three years;

HMRC's Business Payment Support Service has benefited businesses in the leisure and tourism industry (which includes pubs);

Improved access to finance for small businesses through the introduction of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee; and

Support through low-cost loans and advice on energy efficiency for small and medium enterprises (including many pubs) to make savings on their energy bills.

Petition

Friday 15 May 2009

OBSERVATIONS

DEFENCE

Armed Forces (Recruitment)

The Petition of people of this country,

Declares that the Petitioners welcome proposals to raise the school leaving age to 18; and further declares their regret that young people joining the armed forces at the age of 16 currently commit themselves to a period of four years service beyond their 18th birthday:

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward legislation to delay enlistment of recruits into the armed forces until after their 18th birthday.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Drew, Official Report,* 1 April 2009; Vol. 490, c. 1013 .]

[P000344]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence:

The minimum age of entry into the UK armed forces is the school leaving age of 16 years; recruitment is totally voluntary. The services provide challenging and constructive education, training and employment to many young people and provide them with valuable transferable skills.

The armed forces offer young people a wide variety of interesting and rewarding careers. They also provide an excellent opportunity to benefit from constructive, nationally recognised training and education regardless of their level of ability on entry.

No young person, under the age of 18 years, may join the UK armed forces unless their application is accompanied by the formal written consent of his or her parents or guardian. Throughout the recruit selection process, the staffs at the armed forces careers offices (AFCO) provide comprehensive written and oral guidance to all potential recruits, in particular those of less than 18 years of age, and their parents or guardians. This guidance covers the potential recruit's terms and conditions of service, the commitments that they would be undertaking, and their rights to discharge.

All new recruits, regardless of age, have a right of discharge within the first six months of service by giving not less than 14 days notice in writing to the Commanding Officer if they decide that the armed forces is not a career for them. In addition, service personnel under 18 years three months who have passed their statutory six month period for "discharge as of right" and before reaching their 18th birthday have registered clear unhappiness at their choice of career, can request permission to leave the armed forces. Such individuals who have registered clear unhappiness are allowed to leave; they are not prevented from doing so. However, there may be circumstances when a final decision may be deferred, for example if the Commanding Officer has doubts about the permanence of the individual's unhappiness. Every effort is made to ensure that they have fully considered their decision.

It is Defence policy that service personnel under the age of 18 are not deployed on any operation, outside of the UK, which would result in them becoming engaged in, or exposed to, hostilities. In addition, in line with UN policy, service personnel under 18 are not deployed on UN peacekeeping operations.

Commanding officers are well aware of the particular welfare needs of younger recruits and trainees, even if they are not formally in loco parentis.

Our policy on the care of under-18s was revised and reissued in the form of a guidance note to commanding officers in light of the Deepcut review. The guidance note has been updated recently to take account of changes in legislation regarding the sale of tobacco products to under-18s and the appointment of the Service Complaints Commissioner.

The UK ratified the optional protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in June 2003. It requires all feasible measures to be taken to ensure that members of the armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take part in hostilities.

We believe that our policies on under-18s are robust and compliant with national and international law. We remain firmly committed to meeting our obligations under the protocol, and have taken steps to bestow special safeguards on young people under the age of 18. Naturally, we will keep them under review.

We remain committed to improving continuously the environment in which young people are trained and prepared for their career in our armed forces.

Petitions

Monday 18 May 2009

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools (Liverpool)

The Petition of Parents Against Closure (PAC), and other supporters of Croxteth Community Comprehensive,

Declares that Croxteth Community Comprehensive, a specialist college for business and enterprise, has been earmarked for closure; notes that the college plays a vital role in the local community; and further declares that the proposed closure of the college would be highly detrimental to the local community and at odds with Liverpool's role as the European Capital of Culture.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to take action and engage with the local authorities to ensure that Croxteth Community Comprehensive remains open and continues to be able to serve its community.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Robert N. Wareing, Official Report,* 5 March 2009; Vol. 488, c. 1090.]

[P000319]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

Government appreciates that proposals to change local school provision can be upsetting and often unsettling for those involved. However, school place planning is the statutory responsibility of the Local Authority (LA). This includes making sure there are sufficient school places, and also removing surplus places when this is required. To facilitate this, LAs have the power to propose the closure of any type of maintained mainstream school.

Where the LA proposes to make any changes to local school provision, including closure, they must follow a statutory process, which is then decided under established local decision making arrangements. Government has no direct role in the process.

As part of its Building Schools for the Future programme Liverpool LA is planning to reorganise its school provision. Croxteth Community Comprehensive School was proposed for closure because of, among other things, its poor academic standards and it being consistently and significantly undersubscribed. There are currently only 462 pupils on roll (Capacity is 875) and this is expected to fall below 300 by 2015.

On 13 February 2009, having followed the statutory process, the proposals to close the school were approved and the LA is now under a duty to implement the proposals. We understand that the closure was originally planned for 2010, but that this has subsequently been modified to 2012.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Further Education (Wirral)

The Petition of residents of Wirral,

Declares that the proposed closure of Carlett Park Campus, a major site of Wirral Metropolitan College, would have a detrimental effect on current further education provision in South Wirral and beyond, would present difficulties to those wishing to pursue further education courses at Wirral Metropolitan College, fails to take account of the history and local importance of the site, and would discriminate against those whose circumstances dictated against travelling to an alternative site further away from the Carlett Park campus.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to make representations to Wirral Metropolitan College to encourage the continued existence of the Carlett Park site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ben Chapman, Official Report,* 17 November 2008; Vol. 483, c. 98.]

[P000288]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills:

Further education colleges are key to ensuring that every local community has a resource at its heart, charged with delivering high quality opportunities to learners and employers.

As with any business, further education colleges will continue to reassess their future position and the local circumstances in which they operate. They will want to continue to ensure that they can respond to changing needs of the community and the demands of learners and employers. This may result in some colleges reviewing their mission, their organisation, the models of delivery and the long-term sustainability of colleges' sites.

As colleges are independent institutions, matters relating to the policy and operation of a college are matters for the governing body. As such it is for the college governing body to make decisions on the future of a site or campus for which a college has responsibility.

However we would expect a college to ensure opportunities for high-quality learning are maintained and the particular needs of all students continue to be addressed.

Universities (Cumbria)

The Petition of residents of Cumbria and others,

Declares that the proposed closure of the University of Cumbria's Ambleside Campus to undergraduate students in 2012 would be a huge blow to the town of Ambleside and would remove opportunities from future generations of students.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to place pressure on the University of Cumbria to ensure the viability of Ambleside Campus for all students and to scrap the plans for its closure to undergraduate students.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tim Farron, Official Report,* 10 November 2008; Vol. 482, c. 609.]

[P000283]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills:

I understand the concerns that have been raised about the University of Cumbria's plans for its Ambleside site. I do not believe that this is a matter in which Government should seek to intervene. Universities are autonomous bodies. It is right that they should be free to manage their estates to support the mission and economic needs of their institution. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is aware of the University's plans for its estate.

I welcome the commitment of the university to work with local partners as it develops its plans. I note that it has no plans to cut its provision overall, and that it will relocate all the courses it currently runs at Ambleside to other sites. I also note that the university proposes to use the Ambleside campus for the benefit of its postgraduate students, who are an important part of the university's life. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is aware of the university's plans for its estate.

Petition

Wednesday 20 May 2009

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Cumbria)

The Petition of residents of Cartmel, Cumbria and others,

Declares that the Post Office in Cartmel provided a crucial service which was relied upon by the local community and therefore should not have closed.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and Post Office Ltd to reinstate a full Post Office branch in Cartmel.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tim Farron, Official Report,* 29 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1002.]

[P000359]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why we are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this.

Under the Government's postal sector reforms introduced in 2001, Royal Mail (which includes Post Office Ltd) has been given greater commercial freedom, as the management and unions themselves requested, and Government has assumed an arm's-length role as a shareholder in a public limited company. Subject to agreeing its strategic plan with us, the board can structure the business as it decides best to meet the challenges of market development and changing customer needs.

The provision of post office services at Cartmel is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd.

Post Office Ltd has advised that the Cartmel post office branch closed on a temporary basis on 24 February this year. The sub-postmistress had been trying to sell the branch for some time, had failed to find a buyer and subsequently resigned, leading to a break in service.

In order to maintain post office services in Cartmel, Post Office Ltd is proposing to introduce a Hosted outreach service to operate from the Spar Stores in the village—a distance of 500 yards from its former location.

It is proposed that the Hosted service will be provided for seven hours each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will offer the same range of post office services with the addition of motor vehicle licensing. There is on-road parking immediately outside the branch.

Post Office Ltd is currently consulting on the proposed outreach service in accordance with the Code of Practice for Network Change, as agreed with Consumer Focus. The consultation finishes on 9 June 2009. Post Office Ltd will announce its decisions on the future of the branch in due course.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 5 May 2009

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Catz Club: Political Parties

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to investigate donations made by Catz Club to political parties following the announcement of a statutory inquiry by the Charity Commission into previously undisclosed payments. [271949]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has considered two donations made to the Labour party by Catz Club, a permissible donor under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Both donations arose from payments made by Catz Club to attend Labour party events. A proportion of the payments met the costs of the services provided at the event, and a proportion was a donation to the party.

On the basis of information available, the Electoral Commission concluded that the figure used by the party for the cost of services provided in each instance was reasonable, and that there was no breach of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which areas in England exceeded *(a)* national and *(b)* European air quality limit values for particulates at any time in the last 12 months. [270881]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under EU legislation, the UK is required to monitor the air continuously for levels of particulate matter (PM10) and to report to the European Commission on an annual basis. The UK also reports modelled data, in accordance with the legislation.

As a result of improvements over recent years the limit values are met across more than 99% of the country, delivering significant health benefits. The few remaining areas where we have reported exceedences are small. The monitoring information for 2008 remains provisional and the fully ratified data are not yet available. However, on the basis of provisional data monitored breaches of EU limit values for particulate matter are only expected to occur in London. The modelling assessment is not due to be completed until the summer.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times the UK has breached European Union air quality *(a)* particulate, *(b)* sulphur dioxide, *(c)* lead and *(d)* carbon monoxide limits in each year since they were introduced; and what steps the European Commission has taken in each case. [270883]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under EU legislation, the UK is required to monitor the air for levels of particulate matter (PM_{10}), and to report to the European Commission on an annual basis. The UK also reports modelled data, in accordance with the legislation.

For the purposes of implementing EU legislation the UK is divided up into 43 agglomeration zones (areas with a contiguous population of over 250,000 as specified by the air quality directives) and non-agglomeration zones. There are 28 agglomeration zones and 15 non-agglomeration zones.

The UK has not reported any breaches of EU limit values for lead or carbon monoxide since they were introduced. A breach of the sulphur dioxide limits was modelled and reported to the European Commission in 2005 and 2006, in the eastern zone close to a brick works in Stewartby. The European Commission requested information on action being taken to address the breaches, and, on the basis of the UK response, there has been no further correspondence. Breaches have not been reported subsequently and the brick works has now closed.

Like most other member states, the UK has reported a number of breaches of the limits for particulates (PM_{10}) since they came into force in 2005. There has been correspondence between the Commission and many other member states on these breaches. Most recently the Commission wrote to the UK Government and a number of other member states in January in relation to breaches since 2006 in the absence of a time extension Notification seeking additional time to meet the limit value. The UK has since submitted a time extension notification for the relevant zones/agglomerations as provided for under the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC). Details of breaches reported since 2005 are set out in the PM_{10} time extension notification application which can be accessed using the following link:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/eu-int/eu-directives/airqual-directives/notification.htm

Air Pollution: Greater London

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on his decision to suspend the third phase of London's low emission zone. [270882]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Lord Hunt met with the Mayor of London on 22 January 2009 to discuss how DEFRA and the Greater London Authority could work together to ensure air quality limit values for particulate matter (PM_{10}) and nitrogen dioxide (NO^2) were met in London. Following this meeting, officials in DEFRA, the Greater London Authority and Transport for London have met to discuss potential measures and these discussions are continuing.

The meeting with the Mayor was prior to his announcement on the suspension of the third phase of the London low emission zone (LEZ). While the Mayor has indicated his intentions to suspend the LEZ Phase 3 from October 2010, a final decision will be subject to

consultation which will take place between now and then. Should the Mayor decide to suspend Phase 3 the Government expect him to put in place other measures that would contribute to achieving the limit values to the same, if not greater, extent.

Bees: Public Consultation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to consult beekeepers and other bee enthusiasts on the development of his Department's national bee health strategy; and if he will make a statement. [272410]

Jane Kennedy: The 'Healthy Bees' plan was developed with beekeeping associations and other interested parties and was launched on 9 March. Strengthened partnership working between these parties is vital to the success of the plan. My officials will therefore shortly be discussing the implementation of the plan with key beekeeping representatives in order to secure a sustainable way forward.

DEFRA has allocated new resources for the bee health programme to fund the implementation of the plan. On top of its current £1.3 million, an additional £1.137 million will be provided to the National Bee Unit in the financial year 2009-10 and £1.158 million in 2010-11 to implement the first stage of the plan.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the proportion of personal computers in each of his Department's offices that are turned off *(a)* overnight, *(b)* at weekends and *(c)* during holiday periods; and if he will make a statement. [269397]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA is nearing completion of a programme to roll-out new Energy Star compliant Vista laptops and desktops to its staff in core DEFRA and those agencies/NDPBs taking all their desktop services from IBM (including Animal Health, Natural England and Marine and Fisheries Agency), a total of some 7,000 staff.

These new devices deploy Vista's inbuilt group policy options to enforce a default switch to the Vista 'sleep' (which drops the device to a low power setting) and then 'hibernate' standby modes (which encrypts the data and then switches off the machine) after pre-set periods of inactivity.

On completion of this roll-out in the summer, all devices in these DEFRA organisations will therefore be switched off overnight, at weekends and over holiday periods.

No central information is currently available as to the position with DEFRA's other agencies and NDPBs.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269618]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are no figures available for the Department for the period 2004 to 2006.

In 2007 a printer consolidation exercise was undertaken for the core Department and those of its agencies taking desktop services from the Department's strategic supplier IBM (some 4,500 staff). As a result:

2,044 printers were removed for disposal

601 multi-function devices were installed with duplex settings

749 existing printers with duplex and standby power modes were redeployed.

Total printers deployed: 1,350—all enabled with duplex printing.

As these printers are all shared over the network there is no breakdown available by division; nor are figures available yet for 2008.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269632]

Huw Irranca-Davies: For core DEFRA and those agencies taking all their IT services from IBM, (some 4,500 staff), IBM currently uses a catalogue of assets that conform with the Quick Wins criteria for those product sectors where these are now in place i.e. laptops, desktops and monitors.

96 per cent. of the currently deployed 4,500 IBM desktop and laptop assets are compliant with Quick Wins, following completion of a recent refresh exercise that provided a single device for all these staff.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268249]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department does not record costs at the level of detail required to allow a breakdown per device or for the categories of individual requested.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268293]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA procures BlackBerry services and mobile phones via two different arrangements.

1. In the case of BlackBerry services, these are provided through the IBM contract. DEFRA is unable to provide a breakdown of past usage of BlackBerry services as this would require a manual trawl of historical data that would incur disproportionate cost. We have shown the usage figures for March 2009 for the core Department for information as an indication of current usage:

	Number
Ministers	2
Special advisers	2
Civil servants	[1]260

[1] Figure relates to civil servants in core Department only.

2. In the case of mobile phones, these are purchased via OGC's Mobile Solutions contract. DEFRA is unable to provide the data at the level of detail requested for historical data. The total number of connections for the core Department and a breakdown for March 2009 data is included in the following table:

Total connections[1]	
	Number
2006	1,760
2007	1,153
2008	822
2009	629
March 2009 breakdown	
Ministers	1
Special advisers	0
Civil servants	[2]628

[1] Figures based on connections during the year from historical reports in December 2006, October 2007, December 2008, April 2009. Data from 2005 not readily available at proportionate cost.
[2] Figure is based on assumption that civil servants equals end users i.e. civil servants and contractors working in the Department.

Breakdown of historical data could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 826-27W, on the economic situation, what expenditure was incurred by his Department in relation to *(a)* the internal conference held in October 2008 and *(b)* the seminar with delivery bodies held in November 2008, under each budgetary heading. [270595]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The total cost of the senior civil service conference in October 2008 was £16,064.76. £6,687.11 was spent on venue hire and catering and £9,377.65 was spent on facilitation of the event. There were no costs incurred for the following workshops.

The seminar with DEFRA delivery bodies on 10 November 2008 was held at the offices of WRAP in Banbury. The only costs to DEFRA were the time and rail travel of seven departmental representatives. Attendees from the other delivery bodies would have incurred similar costs.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made to end the right to automatic connections to surface water drains for major new developments. [272696]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Provision for the amendment of the right to automatically connect surface water drains and sewers serving new developments to the public sewerage system, under section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991, is contained in the draft Flood and Water Management Bill, published for consultation on 21 April.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that water company price reviews for 2009 make provision for them to achieve required works for the resilience to flooding of critical infrastructure; and what discussions he has had with Ofwat on the issue. [272839]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The 2009 review of water price limits is owned by Ofwat as the independent economic regulator for the water industry.

Paragraph 2.48 of DEFRA's statutory Social and Environmental Guidance issued to Ofwat in August 2008 states:

"Consideration of the risks and impacts of floods on water and sewerage infrastructure and the greater incidence of more extreme weather conditions that climate change is likely to bring, should also extend to resilience of the water industry. Companies, in their business plans, are expected to consider the vulnerability of their critical assets to hazards and assess the resilience of their asset systems in providing services to their customers and the environment. In addition, specific regulatory requirements are placed on companies by the Security and Emergency Measures Direction (SEMD) 1998, and on Licensees by SEMD 2006. These directions among other things, require companies to carry out security work on their vital installations, and protect their other installations and facilities according to Guidance issued by the Government to companies. Ofwat is expected to ensure that companies are able to invest in essential works."

I received a joint briefing from Ofwat, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Drinking Water Inspectorate on 27 April on water and sewerage companies' final business plans, which were submitted to Ofwat on 7 April. This included discussions on resilience.

Ofwat is currently scrutinising companies' final business plans ahead of issuing draft determinations of water price limits for comment in July.

Forestry Commission: Grants

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which grants allocated by the Forestry Commission are *(a)* not and *(b)* partially funded by the Rural Development Programme for England; and from which budgets each such grant is funded. [271749]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table lists the current and previous grant schemes that are currently administered by the Forestry Commission and for which payments continue to be made. All budget items marked 'RDPE' are paid from Axis 2 of the Rural Development Programme for England.

	Part RDPE Funding	*Budget*
English Woodland Grant scheme		
Woodland Planning Grant	Yes	RDPE
Woodland Assessment Grant	Yes	RDPE
Woodland Regeneration Grant	No	FC
Woodland Management Grant	Yes	RDPE/FC[1]
Woodland Improvement Grant	Yes	RDPE
Woodland Creation Grant	Yes	RDPE

	Part RDPE Funding	Budget
Closed schemes		
Woodland Grant Scheme		
Annual Management Grant	No	FC
New Planting Grant	Yes	RDPE
Woodland Improvement Grant	Yes	RDPE
Restocking Grant	No	FC
Old Schemes		
Farm Woodland Scheme	Yes	RDPE
Farm Woodland Premium Scheme	Yes	RDPE
Dedication	No	FC
Other old schemes	No	FC

[1] Woodland Management Grant contracts for public access agreed since 1 January 2007 come from Forestry Commission (FC) budget, those prior to 1 January 2007 from RDPE.

Litter

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* prosecutions have been made and *(b)* fixed penalty notices were issued by each local authority in West Sussex for (i) dropping of litter and (ii) dog fouling in each of the last three years. [272389]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested is as follows:

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

The following table shows the figures on FPNs issued by each local authority in West Sussex for the dropping of litter and dog fouling. The figures are for the period 2006-07, the last year for which stats are available.

	Litter FPNs issued	Dog Fouling FPNs issued
Adur	3	..
Arun	10	4
Chichester	1	2
Crawley	93	5
Horsham	1	..
Mid Sussex	..	..
Worthing	..	..

Source:
Annual data provided by all English local authority districts to DEFRA.

Prosecutions

Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice for the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for the offences dropping of litter and dog fouling in Sussex police force area for 2005-07 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data held centrally cannot be further broken down to local authority level, thus Sussex police force area data have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for littering and dog fouling offences in Sussex police force area, 2005-07

Sussex police force area	Proceeded against		
Offence	2005	2006	2007
Littering	..	1	1
Dog fouling	..	1	1

Notes:
1 Data provided on the principal offence basis.
2 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
3 Includes offences under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sections 87 and 94.
4 Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec. 87. Depositing litter.
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec. 94. Failing to comply with a street litter control notice.
Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 Sec. 3. Dog defecates on designated land and person in charge of dog fails to remove faeces from land forthwith.
Source:
OCJR - E and A, Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean of 2 March and 8 April 2009 on flooding and biomass crops, reference FD7571. [272364]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have sought advice from Environment Agency officials about the letters from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean dated 2 March and 8 April on flooding and biomass crops and will respond shortly.

Wild Boar

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) in what circumstances wild boar may be fed meat; and if he will make a statement; [272368]

(2) what precautions the Food and Environment Research Agency has put in place to prevent the spread of disease among wild boar populations which are fed meat. [272369]

Jane Kennedy: Wild boar cannot normally be fed meat unless it is fed for research purposes and is done in accordance with an authorisation. DEFRA has issued a general authorisation for use of animal by-products for research purposes. The Secretary of State can also issue individual authorisations and can suspend or revoke authorisations.

Although the feeding of animal by-products to animals is a potential route of transmission of various diseases and is something that is not sanctioned in farming or domestic feeding practice, this isolated, short-term trial involving wild boar took place at a time when foot and mouth disease (FMD) and other exotic diseases were

not present in GB. As such, DEFRA is confident that this particular activity did not increase the risk of introducing FMD or other exotic disease. No additional measures, beyond regular surveillance of the feral wild boar by research scientists, are considered necessary.

The Food and Environment Research Agency does not currently feed any meat to any wild boar populations. In January 2009, as part of the agency's research on managing wild boar populations, meat was used at a single research site.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Video Recordings

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission in what circumstances the House authorities may prevent *(a)* a live video link to a meeting at the parliamentary estate from being made and *(b)* a meeting from being held on the parliamentary estate; and if he will make a statement. [272167]

Nick Harvey: The House authorities are guided by the regulations for the use of committee, conference, meeting and interview rooms which are approved by the Administration Committee and set out in the leaflet entitled "Committee Rooms, Conference, Meeting and Interview Rooms" which is available through the Members' Centre, attendants at reception desks and on the intranet. The regulations give guidance on the purposes for which Members may book these rooms. Within these regulations it is possible for Members to invite others to participate in meetings, either in person or via video link.

It is the responsibility of a Member who holds a meeting to ensure that the purpose for which the room has been booked is within the regulations.

Palace of Westminster

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the sums to be allocated for the renewal of facilities in the Palace of Westminster in each of the next six financial years. [271771]

Nick Harvey: Budgets for 2009-10 to 2011-12 only have been agreed at present, pending sign-off of a revised Accommodation and Estates Strategy following the completion of a condition survey of all buildings on the parliamentary Estate:

			£000
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Revenue:			
Projects	3,405	19,665	9,922
Maintenance	6,818	6,737	6,774
Furnishings	1,635	1,636	1,640
Surveys, inspections, studies	850	850	850
Total	12,708	28,888	19,186
Capital investment	16,980	31,637	98,303

These figures cover the House of Commons share of investments by the Parliamentary Estates Directorate across the whole Estate. A number of programmes involve more than a single building, some of which are shared with the Lords, making it difficult to identify separate figures for the Palace of Westminster alone.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267328]

Mr. Woodward: Available figures on fuel expenditure for my Department and its agencies are shown in the following tables:

Northern Ireland Office fuel expenditure

					£000
	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Electricity	637	565	541	383	386
Oil	69	113	86	202	68
Gas	99	74	68	48	52
Other fuels	2	0.3	0.7	0	0
Vehicle fuel	19	18	30	32	32

Northern Ireland Prison Service fuel expenditure

					£000
	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Electricity	1,243	1,155	1,008	861	838
Oil	1,416	1,264	1,111	1,011	985
Gas	348	392	289	155	145
Vehicle Fuel	163	131	123	106	105

Youth Justice Agency fuel expenditure

					£000
	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Electricity	162	227	160	152	140
Oil	22	17	17	10	28
Gas	71	116	70	44	37
Vehicle Fuel	21	18	21	19	15

Compensation Agency fuel expenditure

	£000
	Electricity
2007-08	24
2006-07	27
2005-06	27
2004-05	21
2003-04	20

Forensic Science NI fuel expenditure

		£000
	2007-08	2006-07
Electricity	74	63
Gas	35	36

SCOTLAND

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268540]

Ann McKechin: Office guidance on rail travel requires staff to book tickets through a contracted travel agent. This is in order to ensure that the best value for money is achieved through taking full advantage of advance bookings and discounts for fixed time departures. Staff, who usually travel in standard class, would be permitted to upgrade to first class if no standard seats were available, at their manager's discretion. It would be for individual line managers to assess the relative cost of staff travelling first class against the importance and nature of the journey in relation to the Office's business.

All travel is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bingo

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the gross annual revenue generated by bingo clubs and *(b)* the proportion of such revenue generated from (i) interval bingo and (ii) main stage bingo play in the latest period for which information is available. [272940]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not made any such estimates.

Cultural Heritage: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the World Collections programme since its inception; and on which activities. [272037]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The World Collections programme has received funding of £1 million to date.

This funding has been distributed among the six partners in the programme—the British Museum, the British Library, Tate, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. World Collections programme funding has been allocated to meet the aims and objectives of the programme, and has either funded projects delivered in challenging environments or has provided the initial money to develop strategic international partnerships.

It has contributed funding towards the following activity since it began on 1 April 2008.

Middle East:

World Ceramics at the Pera Museum, Istanbul

The fourth leg of a V and A touring exhibition of ceramic material ordinarily displayed in the permanent galleries at South Kensington (which are being refurbished).

Museum Management seminar, Damascus

To coincide with the World Ceramics exhibition in Damascus, the World Collections programme partners held a four-day museum management seminar in Damascus with curators from Syria, Jordan and Palestine.

Middle Eastern Contemporary Art

A Tate-led research and relationship-building exercise between UK partners and artists and contemporary art institutions across the middle east. This exercise has included UK staff visits to the middle east (including to Kabul); a two-day seminar on the subject at Tate which involved artists, curators and museum professionals from a number of countries including Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Israel and the Gulf states; and seminars to bring together artists, curators and museum professionals in Sharjah and Dubai.

Digital photographic exhibition at the National Museum, Kabul

The World Collections programme (led by the British Library) is developing a sustainable exhibition of digital copies of photographic images held in the archives of the six partner institutions. A British Library curator will also write labels and an exhibition guide (all will be translated into Pashtu). The digital images will be printed and mounted in situ in Kabul to share skills, and digital copies of all images in the exhibition given to the National Museum, Kabul.

India:

Indian Life and Landscapes

A V and A-led touring exhibition to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) Mumbai and the Mehrangarh Fort, Jodphur. The World Collections programme also enabled the inclusion of a public programme, dual-language exhibition materials, and skills sharing and capacity building in exhibition display at the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodphur.

Capacity building with the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad

A V and A-led staff exchange to develop a partnership focused on joint exhibitions and conservation projects.

British Library in India

Digitisation of a selection of the India Office records held at the British Library, and a relationship-building visit to three cities in India to develop partnerships between the six organisations in the World Collections programme and Indian institutions.

Mewar Ramayana manuscript

Digitally reuniting the Mewar Ramayana manuscript which is held in four institutions—the British Library, CSMVS Mumbai, Baroda Museum and the Rajastan Oriental Institute.

Numismatic collections

Development of a series of internships for colleagues in academic institutions in south Asia to study the numismatic collections at the British Museum.

Natural History Museum and the National Natural History Museum, New Delhi

The World Collections programme is funding the initial development of a partnership between these two organisations.

Africa:

National Museums Kenya

A series of initiatives to develop a partnership with National Museums Kenya. This has included a joint project to enhance the cultural heritage storage facilities at the Nairobi Museum, enable staff exchanges between London and Nairobi, and develop a partnership between the Nairobi Museum and the Natural History Museum.

African Sound Archives

A joint project between the British Library and Kenyan National Archives to use the African heritage sound archives held at the British Library and, for the first time, use the audio-visual archives at the Kenyan National Archives. This project will make the archives available to public, provide new input into the British Library collection and assist in the development of the Nairobi-based collection.

National Museum, Addis Ababa

A British Museum-led programme to collaborate with the National Museum in Addis Ababa through the delivery of training in Addis Ababa on the subjects of gallery management, exhibition display and textile conservation.

Development of a partnership with the Institute of Ethiopian Studies

Funding a number of activities involving the British Museum, V and A, British Library and Institute of Ethiopian Studies to develop greater access to the UK-based Ethiopian collections for UK and Ethiopian audiences and the academic community. This has included staff exchanges and the provision of a digitised manuscript for the Institute of Ethiopian Studies.

Money in Africa

Developing links between numismatic collections in the UK and Africa through a number of activities including digitisation of the British Museum's East African coin collection and making this available to African institutions as research and display aids; a capacity building exercise to develop skills in mounting, display and cataloguing with museums in Axum and Addis Ababa; and assistance with training at the Iziko Museums in South Africa.

African Digital Plants Resources

RBG Kew is working to enhance collections-based digital resources relevant to African plant diversity in response to demands from stakeholders and specific feedback concerning existing resources. Main outputs will be a range of user friendly and attractive online 'species pages' for Africa, digitisation and analysis of African specimen information for selected species of conservation concern, and support for capacity building activities requested by African partners.

China:

Royal Botanical Gardens Kew and China Seed Bank

Royal Botanical Gardens Kew worked in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences to develop the China Seed Bank, which opened in Kunming in October 2008.

Natural History Museum and the Geological Museum of China, Beijing

The World Collections Programme is funding the initial development of a partnership between these two organisations.

Internships with the International Dunhuang Project

A series of internships for colleagues from Indian and Chinese institutions to work with the International Dunhuang Project.

Multi-country projects:

International Training Programme

UK-based British Museum-led six-week training programme for 24 international curators, artists and museum professionals to work with specialist staff at the World Collections programme institutions and also develop skills in the basics of museum management. This project also involves Tyne and Wear Museums, Lincoln—The Collection, Manchester Museum and the Whitworth Art Gallery, Glasgow Museums, Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery and the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. The World Collections programme has provided funding for the 2008 and forthcoming 2009 training programmes.

Developing multi-lingual access to the collections:

The World Collections programme is providing funding to develop access to the collections in languages other than English.

Administration:

World Collections programme co-ordinator

The programme funds a part-time post, based at the British Museum, to co-ordinate and manage the programme.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what his most recent estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement; [271822]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of his Department's resource expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and (d) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [271823]

Andy Burnham: The data in table C11 of Budget 2009 give the Capital and Resource Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) for Estimated Outturn for 2008-09 and Plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 in £ billions as follows:

£ billion

	Resource DEL	Capital DEL
2008-09 Estimated outturn	1.6	0.3
2009-10 Plans	1.7	0.4
2010-11 Plans	1.7	0.6

We currently do not hold any data relating to 2011-12.

The latest figures for Resource and Capital expenditure will be available in the Main Estimate and Supplementary Budget Information tables. These are normally published five weeks after the Budget.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department has issued to its staff on claims for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268444]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Our guidance states that for economic purposes staff are encouraged to use standard class rail travel wherever possible. There is no specific guidance about staff claiming for first class travel on trains if there are no seats available in standard class.

Digital Technology: Conferences

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department was of hosting the Digital Britain summit on 17 April 2009; and who attended the summit. [271837]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 29 April 2009]:* The DCMS contribution to the cost of the Digital Britain summit was £20,000.

I am arranging for copies of the list of attendees to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Gambling Commission: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in *(a)* salary and *(b)* bonus to the (i) chairman, (ii) chief executive, (iii) deputy chief executive, (iv) director of operations, (v) director of policy and communications, (vi) director of corporate services and (vii) director of licensing and compliance at the Gambling Commission in 2008-09. [271610]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* The table sets out the salary payments (to the nearest pound) made by the Gambling Commission for the posts listed in 2008-09.

A total of £59,878 was also paid in bonuses for this period but it is not appropriate to provide the specific amounts paid to individuals.

Post	*Notes*	*Salary (£)*
Chairman	The post of Chairman is not pensionable.	65,975
Chief Executive	The post of Chief Executive is not pensionable.	144,953
Deputy Chief Executive	—	49,637
Director of Operations	This post became Director of Regulation from 1 November 2008. The figures are inclusive of both posts.	93,328
Director of Policy and Communications	To 31 October 2008.	42,978
Director of Corporate Services	—	95,755
Director of Licensing and Compliance	To 3 January 2009.	69,287

Government Art Collection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* total purchase price and *(b)* estimated current market value are of the works of art from the Government Art Collection displayed in the private offices of HM Treasury Ministers. [271200]

Barbara Follett: Works from the Government Art Collection in private offices of Treasury Ministers, and their purchase prices, are set out in the following table.

All prices include VAT where applicable.

It is not possible to provide a current value for each of these works. The monetary value of a work of art can be accurately assessed only at the time of its purchase, sale or by professional valuation. The collection is not actively traded and it would not be a justifiable expenditure of public funds to maintain up-to-date professional valuations of the collection.

		Purchase price
GAC3687	"Above the Village, Hewood" 1941 painting by Lucien Pissarro	Purchased for £150 in 1957
GAC6601	"Great Western Railway, Acton" 1907 painting by Lucien Pissarro	Purchased for £575 in 1964
GAC8534	"Migdale" 1939 painting by William Gillies	Purchased for £42 in 1969
GAC11023	"A Landscape near Cadiz" 1962 painting by Duncan Grant	Purchased for £1,500 in 1974
GAC13781	"Landscape, Harbour" 1975 painting by Donald Fraser	Purchased for £2,200 in 1978
GAC16160	"The River at Hammersmith, after Sunset" 1981 painting by Ian Gaughan	Purchased for £400 in 1983
GAC16333	"Sea People" 1976 painting by John Bellany	Purchased for £3,150 in 1985
GAC17522	"The British Museum Great Court" 5/400 2000 print by Ben Johnson	Presented
GAC7019	"Morning Sun" 18/50 1963 print by Bernard Cheese	Purchased for £5 in 1965
GAC9100	"Derive" 10/50 1964 print by S. W. Hayter	Purchased for £20 in 1971
GAC11186	"Sand and Sea" A/P 1973 print by Dennis Hawkins	Purchased for £25 in 1974
GAC1341	"V1 (Yellow and Blue)" 47/50 1964-1965 print by Lili Machado from the Portfolio 'Personages'	Purchased for £8 in 1968
GAC5340	"San Moisè, Venice" 26/50 1961 print by John Piper	Purchased for £12.60 in 1960
GAC7322	"San Marco, Venice" 12/100 1961-1962 print by John Piper	Purchased for £26 in 1965
GAC8502	"San Marco I" 21/100 1966 print by Richard Beer from the Portfolio 'Mediterranean Suite'	Purchased for £11 in 1969
GAC12561	"Printed Fabric with Architectural Design" textile work after John Piper	Purchased for £100 in 1976
GAC6011	"Tower Bridge" 63/75 1964 print by Julian Trevelyan from the Portfolio 'London Suite'	Purchased for £13 in 1964
GAC6021	"Piccadilly Circus" 17/75 1964 print by Julian Trevelyan from the Portfolio 'London Suite'	Purchased for £12 in 1964
GAC7034	"Pasture" 36/50 1955 print by Michael Rothenstein	Purchased for £6 in 1965
GAC1565	"Quarry (White Cliff)" 50/50 1955 print by Michael Rothenstein	Purchase price not recorded (c. 1970)
GAC7504	"Palazzo Pesi" 5/100 1965-1966 print by Julian Trevelyan from the Portfolio 'Florence Suite'	Purchase price not recorded (1966)
GAC11500	"Summer: the force that through the green fuse drives the flower" 1968 painting by Ceri Richards	Purchased for £4,000 in 1977

		Purchased price
GAC17339	"Turn Coat" A/P 1998 print by Leigh Clarke	Purchased for £200 in 1998
GAC17454	"Knapweed and Mallow, Beachy Head" 1993 painting by Jeffery Camp	Purchased for £1,486.38 in 2000
GAC17458	"Receptacles" 1998 painting by David Leapman	Purchased for £4,500 in 2000
GAC10535	"London Bridge" 29/50 1973 print by Patrick Procktor	Purchased for £40 in 1973
GAC12036	"Le Marché de Marmande" print by Elizabeth Flowerday	Purchased for £10 in 1975
GAC12500	"London Bridge with St. Paul's in the Distance" print by William Wyllie	Purchased for £39 in 1976
GAC11781	"Ice Blue" 56/65 1972 print by Terry Frost	Purchased for £45 in 1974
GAC17249	"Kernow Collage" 1996 monotype/collage by Terry Frost	Purchased for £1,750 in 1997
GAC17250	"Newlyn Collage" 1996 monotype/collage by Terry Frost	Purchased for £1,750 in 1997
GACL1064	"Waves II" 37/75 print by Tadek Beutlich	Purchased for £13 in 1972
GAC7845	"River" 27/75 print by Tadek Beutlich	Purchase price not recorded (1967)
GAC8516	"Untitled (Blue, Red and Yellow)" watercolour by Andrew Smith	Purchased for £10 in 1969
GAC12456	"Sweet Bowl Variation" 1975 reproduction of an original work by Patrick Caulfield	Purchased for £15 in 1976
GAC17425	"Yellow" 33/50 1991 print by Terry Frost	Purchased for £400 in 1999
GAC9839	"The Foundry" print after Adolf Menzel	Purchased for £7.65 in 1973
GAC12865	"Pumps for Draining the Kilsby Tunnel" print by John C. Bourne from 'Drawings of the London and Birmingham Railway' (published 1839)	Purchased for £40 in 1977
GAC14709	"Interior at Howarth" 1977 painting by Alfred Cohen	Purchased for £300 in 1970
GAC15340	"I can see what's wrong with it immediately – they've forgotten the propeller!" Reproduction of a cartoon by Raymond Jackson	Origin and cost unknown—found in Government building early 1980s
GAC5069	"King's Parade, Cambridge" print by Edwin La Dell from the Portfolio 'Oxford and Cambridge Series'	Purchased for £7.35 in 1959
GAC6568	"King's Parade, Cambridge, in the Rain" 19/25 print by Edwin La Dell	Purchased for £10 in 1964
GAC7796	"The King of Hearts" 1949 print by Fernand Leger from the 'School Prints' series	Purchase price not recorded (1967)
GAC12139	"Column, 2nd Stage" 21/75 1970 print by Geoffrey Brunell	Purchased for £50 in 1975
GAC12393	"Lower Wessex Lane, Spring" 10/75 1976 print by Norman Stevens	Purchased for £26 in 1976
GAC12339	"Lower Wessex Lane, Summer" 20/60 1976 print by Norman Stevens	Purchased for £26 in 1976
GAC12310	"Lower Wessex Lane, Autumn" 7/25 1976 print by Norman Stevens	Purchased for £26 in 1976
GAC12341	"Lower Wessex Lane, Winter" 5/45 1976 print by Norman Stevens	Purchased for £26 in 1976
GAC12661	"I wonder what my heroes think of the space race" 1962 painting by Derek Boshier	Purchased for £1,210 in 1976
GAC17746	"The Government Art Collection Sculpture Store" 2002 painting by Andrew Grassie	Purchased for £3,701.25 in 2002
GAC17750	"The Pillared Room at 10 Downing Street" 2002 painting by Andrew Grassie	Purchased for £3,701.25 in 2002
GAC18083	"Safe Light, Reflected Ballroom" 1/4 photograph by Jane and Louise Wilson	Purchased for £14,981 in 2006
GAC18147	"Untitled (Artist's Impression of Eternity Chamber)" 2007 drawing by Charles Avery	Purchased for £8,044 in 2007
GAC18204/1-6	"Palast I – VI" 23/24 2005 Portfolio of prints by Tacita Dean	Purchased for £24,328.80 (for set of six) in 2008

Non-profit Making Associations: Commonwealth Games 2014

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage social enterprises to take up commercial opportunities arising out of the 2014 Commonwealth games. [272603]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following the successful bid for Glasgow to host the Commonwealth games in 2014, the Organising Committee, Glasgow 2014 Ltd., is taking forward the delivery of the games. The Government welcome any steps it takes to encourage the involvement of social enterprises in accessing the commercial opportunities offered by the 2014 Commonwealth games. The Scotland Office will be taking forward two pieces of secondary legislation under the Scotland Act 1998 to facilitate the delivery of the 2014 games. These will protect the intellectual property rights of the games and prohibit ticket touting in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Sports: Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many community sport coaches have been in operation in each year since 2005. [272056]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* Sport England has advised that the community sports coach scheme was initially established in April 2003, and implemented from April 2004. The headline objectives were to generate 3,000 paid professional coaches working at a local level and to increase the number and range of coaching opportunities by 2006, according to strategic and local need.

In each year since 2005 there has been the following number of community sports coaches:

	Number of coaches
2005-06	2,978
2006-07	3,335
2007-08	3,063

Tourism

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what Visit England's budget for tourism promotion is for 2009-10; what the budget for Enjoy England was in its last year of operation; and if he will make a statement. [271318]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* Enjoy England is the marketing brand for Visit England. Visit Britain have advised that they have allocated £12 million to Visit England to promote tourism for 2009-10.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 22W, on trade unions, which trade unions are recognised by his Department's agency. [271936]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Royal Parks Agency recognises the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and Prospect.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of new arrivals at the internally displaced persons camps in southern Darfur in the last six months; and what assessment he has made of the effects on the capacity of those camps to meet the basic needs of their residents of such arrivals. [271588]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that 100,000 people have been assessed as newly displaced within South Darfur in the last six months. A further 49,000 have been displaced from South Darfur to other states within Darfur. Most of these have arrived in designated IDP camps.

In the wake of the expulsion of 13 international NGOs and dissolution of three national NGOs on 4 March 2009, a UN-Government of Sudan mission assessed the capacity of service providers in the major camps across Darfur. It concluded that due to gap-filling measures taken by the UN and other agencies, an immediate crisis had been averted, but that urgent action was needed to ensure that IDPs received life-saving services in the medium term. We are working with the Government of Sudan, the UN, other international agencies, the remaining NGOs and implementing partners to ensure that the necessary capacity is in place.

Sudan: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the effects on the humanitarian situation in Sudan of the dissolution or expulsion by the Government of Sudan of non-governmental organisations in March 2009; what gaps in humanitarian assistance consequent on the departure of such organisations from Sudan have been identified by the UN; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of people affected by such gaps. [271729]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The report of the Joint United Nations (UN)-Government of Sudan (GoS) assessment of the impact of the expulsion of 13 international NGOs and dissolution of three national NGOs was released on 24 March 2009. It estimated that 650,000 people risked being left without full access to medical care; 692,000 without non-food items (NFIs) and shelter; over 850,000 without access to water and sanitation; and 1.1 million with disrupted food supplies. The report is available online at:

http://ochaonline.un.org/

On 7 April 2009, the UN presented figures to donors based on worst case scenarios if gaps were not filled. These were up to 30 per cent. higher: 1.5-2 million without any access to medical care; 1 million without access to water and sanitation; 1.1 million with disrupted food assistance during the hungry season; and 1.2 million without adequate shelter and NFIs during the rainy season. The risks of increased morbidity, mortality, malnutrition and large population movements were also reported as significant.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue working with the UN and other donors to monitor GoS' commitment to fill the gaps left by the expulsions and closures, and to ensure that the international community has early warning of any significant further deterioration in the humanitarian situation.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to enable deprived children to attend events during the London 2012 Olympics. [271353]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the ticketing strategy for the London 2012 games, which will be made public in 2010.

I have held detailed discussions with LOCOG about developing the strategy. We are absolutely committed to making sure that there are tickets for sale at affordable prices for all and for people from around the UK. Some sporting events such as the marathon and road cycling will be free to watch. In addition, LOCOG is already rolling out a network of live sites across the country from now through to 2012 for as many people as possible in the community to watch the games.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Disabled

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has had discussions with other Governments about the ending of charges by airlines for passengers with pulmonary hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, muscular dystrophy and other conditions who bring personal oxygen concentrators and equipment on board airlines or who use supplemental oxygen provided by the airline; [271541]

(2) if he will hold discussions with airlines operating from the UK to seek to end charges made on passengers with pulmonary hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and muscular dystrophy who require in-flight supplemental oxygen provided by the airline or by themselves; [271542]

(3) if he will make it his policy to ensure air passengers with pulmonary hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, muscular dystrophy and other conditions are not charged by airlines for bringing on board personal oxygen concentrators or equipment or for having supplemental oxygen provided by the airline. [271543]

Jim Fitzpatrick: European regulation 1107/2006 on the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air imposes obligations on airlines with respect to the services they provide, including an obligation to carry passengers' medical equipment free of charge. However, there are no specific obligations to carry or provide oxygen in the cabin.

To help the air transport industry to comply with its obligations under the regulation, the Department for Transport has published an updated version of its Code of Practice "Access to Air Travel for Disabled Persons and Persons with Reduced Mobility". The code was developed with input from the Civil Aviation Authority, the Health and Safety Executive, the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, the devolved Administrations and aviation industry representatives. The code includes a section on oxygen which advises that air carriers may approve the carriage of small gaseous oxygen or air cylinders required for medical use, but notes that carriers will wish to ensure that these do not pose a risk to security. The code also recommends that portable oxygen concentrator devices should normally be allowed if battery powered. Where air carriers wish to supply medical oxygen to passengers on request, the code acknowledges that it would be possible to make a charge for this service to cover the provision of the oxygen.

This is a matter which is best addressed at a European level. The Department has raised the issue of carriage of medical oxygen with the European Commission at a recent meeting of national enforcement bodies for regulation 1107/2006. The Commission is due to review the regulation in 2010.

Aviation: EU Countries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* scheduled and *(b)* inclusive tour flights there were from British airports to (a) euro zone countries, (b) Germany, (c) France, (d) Spain and (e) Italy in each of the last five years. [272560]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Flights services are defined as scheduled or charter; inclusive tour flights are not separately identified.

The tables show the number of scheduled and charter flights departing from British airports to euro zone (EU-27) countries, Germany, France, Spain and Italy in each of the last five years.

Table 1. Scheduled flights from British airports to euro zone countries, Germany, France, Spain and Italy

Thousand

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Euro zone (EU-27)	420.7	451.2	459.9	477.0	471.3
Germany	62.6	64.9	65.4	66.5	64.7
France	60.2	58.3	60.2	58.8	56.7
Spain	64.1	77.6	80.0	85.4	85.2
Italy	38.3	42.1	39.2	43.1	40.4

Source:
DFT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

Table 2. Charter flights from British airports to euro zone countries, Germany, France, Spain and Italy

Thousand

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Euro zone (EU-27)	71.4	63.6	63.1	58.7	50.7
Germany	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.6
France	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.8
Spain	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.4
Italy	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.2

Source:
DFT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

Aviation: Radio Frequencies

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent estimate he has made of the level of use by private and leisure pilots of unlicensed aerodromes likely to follow the introduction of higher charges associated with the administered incentive pricing for aeronautical radio spectrum; [272229]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* airlines and *(b)* airline passengers using East Midlands airport of the introduction of administered incentive pricing for aeronautical radio spectrum; [272233]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* aviation and *(b)* passenger safety of the introduction of administered incentive pricing for aeronautical radio spectrum. [272234]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ofcom, the independent regulator for the UK communications industries, published proposals for administered incentive pricing (AIP) in its 2008 consultation 'Applying spectrum pricing to the Maritime and Aeronautical sectors'. Ofcom did not publish an Impact Assessment with this consultation, but indicated that it would do so with its second consultation on AIP. Publication of this second consultation, which will feature more detailed proposals for the implementation of AIP in the maritime and aeronautical sectors, is anticipated in spring 2009.

We expect Ofcom's Impact Assessment to identify fully the potential effects of AIP on the maritime and aeronautical sectors.

Aviation: Safety

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of air safety standards of the incorporation of the Civil Aviation Authority into the European Aviation Safety Agency; and if he will make a statement. [271781]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority has not been incorporated into the European Aviation Safety Agency.

The European Aviation Safety Agency drafts common safety rules in the fields in which it has competence, namely airworthiness and air operations. These rules, once formally adopted through Community procedures, are legally binding across the EU. In some areas of regulation, such as the type certification of aircraft, the agency implements the rules itself, but in most areas they are implemented and enforced by the member states' national aviation authorities (NAAs)—the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the level of safety standards in the helicopter fleet servicing the UK offshore oil and gas industry; and if he will make a statement. [271782]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The safety of the helicopter fleet servicing the UK offshore oil and gas industry is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) is investigating the fatal accident to a Super Puma helicopter, which occurred on 1 April. EASA and the CAA have closely followed the progress of the investigation and have introduced mandatory safety intervention measures, which required operators of the Super Puma helicopters to inspect and modify their aircraft. The CAA is confident that these measures are sufficient to maintain aviation safety in the light of the information available to date. Should the AAIB investigation reveal additional information, EASA and the CAA will examine that information and consider whether further steps are required.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269855]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport reviews assets and land and property holdings on an ongoing basis. As and when appropriate any land or property holdings deemed surplus are promptly identified and disposed of in accordance with business needs.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270505]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport and its Executive agencies currently have 24 employees suspended; all are on full pay while internal and/or police investigations are being conducted.

Reason for suspension	*Period suspended for*
Alleged Gross Misconduct	27 months
Alleged Gross Misconduct	14 months
Alleged Gross Misconduct	14 months
Alleged Gross Misconduct	9 months
Alleged Gross Misconduct	6 months
Alleged Gross Misconduct	6 months
Alleged Gross Misconduct	19 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	15 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	15 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	13 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	11 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	10 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	10 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	9 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	6 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	5 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	4 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	4 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	4 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	3 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	2 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	2 weeks
Alleged Gross Misconduct	1 week

Driving Tests: First Aid

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require candidates for the driving test to undertake training in first aid. [272397]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no plans to bring forward legislative proposals to require candidates for the driving test to undertake specific training in first aid.

The driving theory test contains three questions relating to first aid. These questions are drawn from two categories: Accident Handling and First Aid. Each candidate is asked two questions on accident handling and one on first aid.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of the new computer system to be used by post offices to renew photocard driving licences. [272464]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has negotiated a price for the provision of a customer-facing service with the Post Office. The Post Office procured a new computer system through a third party supplier for the provision of the DVLA service and services to other customers. The Post Office shared some of these costs with the agency during negotiations. These costs may not be disclosed as they are commercial in confidence.

Exeter-Yeovil Railway Line

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will undertake an investigation of the likely effect of dualling the Exeter to Yeovil railway line on *(a)* demand for services on the line, *(b)* the environment and *(c)* the economy of the south-west. [272520]

Paul Clark: Network Rail is already doubling the track at Axminster between Exeter and Yeovil to enable more frequent services to operate. The 2006 rail industry study identified this work would suffice to meet predicted demand for services on the line up to 2017.

The overall demand on the line will be kept under review as part of the preparation for the Government rail output requirements for 2014 to 2019 but there is no plan to undertake an early review.

Flying Matters

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had (i) discussions and (ii) meetings with representatives of Flying Matters. [270966]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I gave a short address to a Flying Matters round table on The Developing World, Air Freight and Climate Change on 31 March 2008. The organisation represents a broad coalition of bodies who have an interest in supporting sustainable growth in aviation, including the business community, trade unions, tourism bodies as well as airlines, airports, aerospace manufacturers and others in the industry. In the course of business Ministers regularly have meetings with stakeholders from these organisations, as do officials.

Specific official level contact with Flying Matters comprised meetings on 5 May 2007 and 5 February 2009 on a range of aviation issues and brief discussions in late 2007 and early 2008 as part of a series of regular updates to a range of stakeholders on the progress of the Climate Change Bill.

M42

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the M42 to be free of roadworks and lane closures in both directions. [272319]

Paul Clark: The current planned roadworks on the M42 are part of the roll-out of the Managed Motorways programme on the motorway box around Birmingham and its approaches. They comprise the installation of ATM between junctions 7 to 9, scheduled to be completed by December 2009, and MIDAS (Motorway Incident Detection System) between junctions 9 to 11, expected to be completed by early August 2009. The work is being carried out in sections within these locations.

It is not possible to guarantee that any motorway will be free of roadworks and lane closures as there will always be the possibility of emergency works, for example as a result of accidents or other unforeseen incidents.

Advance warning of any work taking place will normally be available on the Highways Agency's website, the Traffic England website and on strategic signing on potentially affected approach routes, allowing road users to plan their route accordingly.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the current roadworks on the M42 were not phased to take place after roadworks on the M1 motorway between Junctions 25 and 28 were concluded; and if he will make a statement. [272320]

Paul Clark: To minimise disruption to road users, the Highways Agency's policy is to ensure, where possible, that concurrent roadworks are not carried out within six miles of each other. The M1 and M42 schemes comply with that policy, being over 19 miles apart.

Motorcycles: Registration

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of registering off-road bikes with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to reduce levels of antisocial behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [270092]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An inter-departmental group led by the Home Office is keeping the matter under review. Its remit is to consider the issues around the off-road use of mini-motos and similar vehicles and to pool knowledge of how those issues are being addressed.

Railways

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the transport priorities of regional development agencies take account of the results of consultation with transport users. [272517]

Paul Clark: Regions have the opportunity to provide advice to Government on their investment priorities for transport, housing and regeneration, and economic development through regional funding advice.

The Government issued guidance on preparing regional funding advice in July 2008. This guidance stated that regional development agencies, regional assemblies, leaders' forums and local government would all have a key role to play in developing the advice, and that sub-regional partners and cities should play a role in ensuring that the advice recognised the importance of developing functional economic areas. Furthermore, the guidance stated that the regional advice would be more credible if it was based on a wide consensus, and reflected the views of the broadest range of stakeholders, including the business community, social, environmental and economic partners, and the third sector. Regional partners were also encouraged to engage the public when gathering advice on regional priorities for development.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* regional development agencies on mechanisms for consultation with residents and other stakeholders on rail transport strategy. [272521]

Paul Clark: We have not issued any specific guidance to either local authorities or regional development agencies on their mechanisms for consultation with residents and other stakeholders specifically on rail transport strategy. We issued draft guidance in December 2008 to local authorities on preparing local transport plans starting in 2011, which includes consultation on local transport generally.

Railways: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage an increase in travel to British seaside resorts by rail by *(a)* tourists and *(b)* business users. [271604]

Paul Clark: Promoting travel by rail to seaside resorts is primarily a matter for the train operators who run the services and the resorts who wish to attract visitors.

In addition, in line with the Department for Transport's Community Rail Development Strategy, a number of Community Rail Partnerships promote rail services to seaside resorts in their areas when this can enhance the viability of local rail services.

Railways: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the deployment of facial recognition technology on railway property. [270968]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not require the use of facial recognition technology on railway property. Along with other Departments, we are keeping this emerging technology under review. In future, it may have the potential to provide an additional tool to help protect the public. As with any such technology, however, its use for public protection would need to be proportionate and balanced with considerations of privacy. Any use would also need to be backed with appropriate safeguards and transparency for the public.

Railways: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of journeys between Torbay and London undertaken by rail; and what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of such journeys. [272519]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has the estimate of the number of journeys from and to Torbay as published in the National Rail Trends. In 2006-07 the number of journeys made was 788,000. However, the Department does not have any estimate of the journeys as a proportion of total between Torbay and London.

Our aim is to give people real choices about how they travel, which means we need both a reliable, well resourced railway and properly financed roads. Our policy is to make the most of existing capacity on both road and rail and that is where the majority of our investment is focused.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to alter the service level commitment of the First Great Western franchise agreement to increase the number of direct journeys between Paignton and London Paddington. [272523]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State currently has no plans to alter the service level commitment of First Great Western to increase the number of direct journeys between Paignton and London Paddington.

Road Signs and Markings: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road signs have been purchased by Milton Keynes unitary authority in each year since its inception; [272313]

(2) how much *(a)* Milton Keynes unitary authority and *(b)* all local authorities spent on road signs in each of the last 10 years. [272355]

Paul Clark: Local highway authorities are responsible under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the installation of traffic signs as necessary. The Department for Transport does not hold information either on the number of traffic signs installed by authorities, or the cost of these measures.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what major improvements have been made to the UK road network in the last 12 months. [271476]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency completed the following major road improvements in England during the financial year 2008-09.

Name of scheme	*County*	*Completed*
A590 High and Low Newton Bypass	Lancashire	April 2008
A66 Long Newton Junction	County Durham	May 2008
M25 J1b-3 Widening (Section 3)	Kent	July 2008
A27 Southerham to Beddingham Improvement	Sussex	August 2008
A14 Haughley New St—Stowmarket Improvement	Suffolk	September 2008
M27 J11-J12 Climbing Lanes	Hampshire	September 2008
M6 Carlisle to Guardsmill Extension	Cumbria	December 2008
M62 Junction 6 Improvement	Merseyside	December 2008
A595 Parton—Lillyhall Improvement	Cumbria	December 2008
A38 Dobwalls Bypass	Cornwall	December 2008
M1 Junction 6a to 10 Widening	Hertfordshire	December 2008
M27 J3 To J4 Widening	Hampshire	January 2009
A5117/A550 Deeside Park Junctions Improvement	Cheshire	March 2009
A2 Bean—Cobham Phase 2 Pepperhill—Cobham	Kent	February 2009
A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass	Northumberland	March 2009
A419 Blunsdon Bypass	Wiltshire	March 2009

Local highway authorities in England completed the following major road improvements during the financial year 2008-09:

Name of scheme	*Local/regional authority*	*Completed*
Ridgmont Bypass and Woburn Link Road	Bedfordshire CC	June 2008
Tunstall Northern Bypass	Stoke City Council	July 2008
Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor	Darlington City Council	August 2008
A631 West Bawtry Road Improvements	Rotherham MBC	September 2008

Name of scheme	Local/regional authority	Completed
Glasshoughton Coal Fields Link Road	Wakefield MBC	October 2008
A688 Wheatley Hill to Bowburn Link	Durham CC	October 2008
Brierley Hill Access Network	Dudley MBC	October 2008
Leeds Inner Ring Road, Stage 7	Leeds City Council	November 2008
A6096 Ilkeston to Awsworth Link Road	Derbyshire CC	December 2008
Upperton Road Viaduct Major Maintenance Scheme	Leicester City Council	December 2008
East Leeds Link Road, Leeds	Leeds City Council	February 2009
Scarborough Integrated Transport Scheme	North Yorkshire CC	February 2009
A47 Earl Shilton Bypass	Leicestershire County Council	March 2009
North West Taunton Package	Somerset County Council	March 2009
A386 Northern Corridor	Plymouth City Council	March 2009

There are also a number of other major schemes by the Highway Agency and local highway authorities which are in construction or are due to commence this year.

In addition to the major schemes given above, a number of minor improvement schemes (under £5 million) were completed during the financial year 2008-09 by the Highways Agency and local highway authorities on roads for which they have responsibility.

Responsibility for the road networks in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is devolved to the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the effect of the extreme weather in winter 2008-09 on the condition of roads for which the Highways Agency is responsible; and what funding will be made available to assist with repairs. [271276]

Paul Clark: No special assessment has been made of the effect of the extreme weather incurred during 2008-09 on the condition of the network. However, the Highways Agency carries out regular network condition surveys and timely safety inspections to ensure appropriate funds are allocated to maintain the network in a safe and serviceable condition. The Highways Agency's experience is that road defects due to extreme weather are likely to be safety related, which are treated promptly as part of the routine and winter maintenance programme. Costs for treating such defects are small and are managed using the overall allocated maintenance expenditure.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1606-8W, on rolling stock, (1) on what date and for what reasons the decision was taken to reduce the number of new carriages scheduled to be ordered in the Rolling Stock Plan; [270979]

(2) which *(a)* franchise areas and *(b)* lines originally scheduled to receive new rolling stock under the Rolling Stock Plan will not receive new stock. [270980]

Paul Clark: No decision has been taken to reduce the number of new carriages proposed to be ordered as part of the Rolling Stock Plan. The Rolling Stock Plan published in January 2008 (revised in July 2008) showed an indicative allocation of additional carriages to individual train operators. The plan did not distinguish between new carriages and those transferred between train operators.

543 of the 1,300 new carriages announced in High Level Output Specification (HLOS) have been ordered, with the balance to be ordered in due course.

Shipping: Pollution

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the volume of pollution attributable to shipping activities. [272352]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport works in the forum of the International Maritime Organization to develop international standards and regulations which prevent pollution from ships. The Department's Maritime and Coastguard Agency undertakes the surveillance and monitoring of the UK pollution control zone, and enforces relevant legislation in respect of UK-flagged ships and in respect of ships in waters under UK jurisdiction.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the level of pollution from shipping in UK coastal waters. [272836]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Each year, the Department's Maritime and Coastguard Agency commissions the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea to prepare an "Annual survey of reported discharges attributed to vessels and offshore oil and gas installations operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone". The reports of the annual surveys are available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website.

Taunton-Penzance Railway Line: Electrification

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1609W, on Taunton-Penzance railway line: electrification, what conclusions were reached by the cross-industry working group; and what steps his Department plans to take in response to those conclusions. [271517]

Paul Clark: The cross-industry electrification working group led by Network Rail expects to publish its conclusions later in the year. The group's work will inform the rail industry planning process.

Taxis: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that drivers of minicabs operating illegally are *(a)* apprehended and *(b)* prosecuted. [272962]

Paul Clark: In order to provide a lawful private hire vehicle service in London, it is necessary for the operator and the driver and the vehicle to be licensed by Transport for London (TfL). Responsibility for enforcing the law in respect of drivers operating illegally rests with TfL and the Metropolitan police. They carry out this responsibility jointly through the Transport Operational Command Unit (TOCU).

The Government have taken steps to facilitate the enforcement task. In 2003 regulations were made which listed taxi touting as a recordable offence, allowing for the finger-printing of offenders and the taking of DNA and photographs.

Tintwistle Hollingworth and Mottram Bypass

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1286-87W, on the Longdendale bypass, what costs have been incurred in connection with the A57/A628 Mottram to Tintwistle bypass since 13 November 2008. [272467]

Paul Clark: For the period of 13 November 2008 to 30 April 2009, the A57/A628 Mottram to Tintwistle bypass scheme has incurred costs of approximately £1,176,000.

The costs include general project management, preparation for closure of the Public Inquiry, responding to general inquiries, project governance, staff costs, costs associated with the contract and finalising documents for the postponement of the project.

Transport: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of children travelling to school by car in the Torbay local authority area; and what steps he is taking to encourage alternative means of transport. [272527]

Paul Clark: Data collected by schools in the Torbay area via the School Census in January 2008 showed that 35.5 per cent. of children normally travelled to school by car; this included 2.9 per cent. of children who travelled in a car with children from another family.

The Government want as many children as possible to walk, cycle or use public transport to travel to school. In 2003, we launched the "Travelling to School" project setting out how we want all schools in England to develop a school travel plan in order to reduce car use for journeys to school and allow many more children to take regular exercise. By 2010 more than £140 million will have been committed to support the project through local authority school travel advisers and capital grants to help schools implement their travel plans.

92 per cent. of schools in Torbay already have an active school travel plan and the council is on target for every school to have a plan by March 2010. In addition Torbay council has in 2008-09 been awarded a total of £6,500 in Walking to School Initiative grants, together with funding in both 2008-09 and 2009-10 for cycle training for 1,000 children in total.

Vehicle Number Plates: Flags

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on his consultation on amendment of the Road Vehicles (Display of Registrations Marks) Regulations 2001 to permit the voluntary display of national flags. [272043]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The consultation exercise has been completed and the new rules came into force on 27 April.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in her Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268274]

Mr. Woolas: Information regarding the breakdown of laptops between Ministers, special advisers and civil servants is not held centrally and to get this information would incur disproportional cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 months. [241539]

Mr. Woolas: We do not hold these data and to obtain them would involve disproportionate costs. We are not aware of any loss of confidential data from compact discs in the last 12 months.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy for her Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258969]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have welcomed the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of her Department was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [269679]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office operates a large-scale, multi-vendor supply chain delivering a wide range of ICT categories. Service capacity utilisation and the number of printers and multi-functional devices with printer capability are managed by our suppliers as part of the service offering. The information requested by the hon. Member is not therefore available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Home Office

is working towards a ratio of one printer per 20 people and work is under way to review and rationalise data centres and to convert network printers to duplex capability where practicable.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in her Department in each year since 2005. [268234]

Mr. Woolas: BlackBerrys and other mobile telephone devices are supplied through our IT service providers.

Call and data charges for UKBA users of BlackBerrys are approximately £7,800 (including VAT) per quarter. The remainder of call and data charges for BlackBerrys are sent directly to each business area and to get this information would incur disproportional cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in her Department in each year since 2005. [268295]

Mr. Woolas: Information regarding the breakdown of BlackBerrys and other mobile telephones between Ministers, special advisers and civil servants is not held centrally and to get this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which programmes funded by her Department experienced a real terms reduction in their budget for 2008-09 in comparison with 2007-08; and what the budget for each such programme was in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2006-07. [269689]

Mr. Woolas: The major Home Office Programme budgets and comparisons for the years in question are set out in the Departmental Report 2008, tables 5.1 to 5.3. This report is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/hoannualreport08/hoannualreport2008?view=Binary

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which financial losses her Department was granted Treasury approval in 2008-09. [269694]

Mr. Woolas: All losses incurred by the Home Office during the year have been managed by the Department within the scope of authorities delegated by the Treasury. The Departmental Resource Accounts for 2008-09 are scheduled for publication in June.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which training courses were *(a)* available to and (b) taken up by (i) civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department in the last 12 months. [263308]

Mr. Woolas: A wide range of internal and external training courses are available to and taken up by Home Office civil servants. Details cannot be provided without disproportionate cost. On training for Ministers in the Home Office, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer of 22 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 167W.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will suspend all deportations of people to Zimbabwe until there is greater political stability in that country. [268643]

Mr. Woolas: The court judgment on 19 November 2008 found that there is no prohibition to removing people who have no right to be here to Zimbabwe. However, the policy of Her Majesty's Government is that we will always take account of the political and humanitarian factors before doing so. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced in September 2006 that we would be halting enforced returns to Zimbabwe and we are not currently enforcing the return of Zimbabwean nationals.

Immigration: Somalia

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Somali citizens are seeking *(a)* asylum and *(b)* leave to remain; and how many have been (i) granted indefinite leave to remain and (ii) deported in each year since 1997. [269753]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* An integral issue in asylum policy is that claimed national citizenship and actual citizenship are often different.

The number of Somali nationals currently seeking asylum is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Management information indicates that as at 6 April 2009, there are 1,660 claimed Somali nationals who currently have outstanding applications for limited leave to remain in the UK. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and may be subject to change. The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

The following table shows the numbers of Somali nationals granted settlement in each year from 1997 to 2007, and Somali nationals removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in each year from 1997 to 2008. Published settlement data by nationality for 2008 are not currently available; this information is due to be published in August 2009.

National statistics on asylum applications, including grants and refusals, grants of settlement and removals and voluntary departures from the UK are published in chapters 3, 5 and 6 respectively of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom annual bulletins. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf

Grants of settlement, removals and voluntary departures, nationals of Somalia, 1997 to 2008

Number of grants/departures

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]	*2008*[1]
Grants of settlement	985	2,945	3,180	12,495	8,405	10,000	6,305	3,825	8,255	2,125	2,845	n/a
Removals and voluntary departures[2, 3, 4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	610	840	920	295	205
Of which												
asylum cases, principal[5, 6]	50	40	n/a	n/a	25	50	55	160	115	205	120	75
asylum cases, dependants[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	20	15	5	5
non-asylum cases	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	435	705	700	170	120

[1] Provisional figures.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[3] Includes persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, since January 1999 persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.
[5] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage.
[6] Data for 1998 and 2001 to 2003 have been estimated due to data quality issues.

National Identity Scheme Commissioner

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 158W, on the National Identity Register: data protection, what *(a)* financial and *(b)* staffing resources will be available to the National Identity Scheme Commissioner to provide independent oversight of the provision of information. [269471]

Mr. Malik: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 822W.

The appointment of the Scheme Commissioner is still continuing and once the appointee has commenced the role they will discuss the resources required to undertake independent oversight.

In accordance with the Identity Cards Act 2006 the Scheme Commissioner has the right to ask the Home Secretary for staff required to fulfil the role.

Passports: Concessions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pensioners have received a free passport in each year since the introduction of the policy. [270155]

Mr. Malik: The introduction of free passports was announced on 19 May 2004 as a special concession for the second world war generation. Those who qualify are British nationals born on or before 2 September 1929 and therefore were old enough by the end of the war to have made a substantial contribution to the national effort.

The scheme also included provision for a refund to be available on request to those that were eligible but applied for a passport in the period between 19 May 2004 (the date the Home Secretary announced the scheme) and 18 October (the implementation date of the scheme). Up until 31 March 2009, 18,897 refunds have been applied for and processed under this provision and are included in the volumes shown.

For each financial year from May 2004 until the end of March 2009, the following volumes of free passports were issued:

Financial year	*Volume issued*
2004-05	121,444
2005-06	157,229
2006-07	127,820
2007-08	109,655
2008-09	82,034

Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of records of offences committed outside the United Kingdom held by the UK Central Authority were made available to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and used in CRB disclosures in 2008-09; and whether there are data on categories of offences held by the UK Central Authority which may not be passed to the CRB for such use. [269785]

Mr. Malik: The UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records (UKCA-ECR) receives conviction notifications in respect of UK citizens who have been convicted of crimes in EU member states. Convictions that are recordable under the National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations 2000 are added to the Police National Computer (PNC) and are therefore available to the CRB for disclosure purposes.

Between 1 October 2008 and 31 December 2008 the UKCA-ECR received 1,166 notifications, 250 of which were for non-recordable offences. All recordable offences were added to the PNC. It is not known what percentage of these have been subsequently used in disclosures.

Under Section 113A (3) of Part V of the Police Act 1997 criminal record certificates—standard and enhanced disclosures—must contain details of "every relevant matter" recorded in "central records". This means all convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer (PNC), including spent convictions. Any EU conviction information added to the Police National Computer by the UKCA-ECR would be included on CRB disclosures.

Vetting: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under-18 year olds had Criminal Records Bureau checks in 2008-09. [269706]

Mr. Malik: From April 2008 to February 2009, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued 122,461 disclosures to applicants under the age of 18 years. Of these, 112,9933 were enhanced disclosures and 9,528 were standard disclosures.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits he has made to Afghanistan in the last six months. [272905]

Mr. Hutton: I have visited Afghanistan on two occasions since my appointment as Secretary of State for Defence in October 2008.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions in the last six months he has visited military personnel in hospitals. [272897]

Mr. Hutton: Since October 2008, I have visited hospitals with military patients on three occasions.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former members of the armed forces who have applied for re-enlistment in the last 12 months are awaiting a decision; what the longest period an applicant has waited for a decision in the last five years is; and if he will make a statement. [265908]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, the Royal Navy received 1,001 Rating or RM Other Rank applications from former UK military personnel including RN, Army, RAF and former Reservists. Of these, 67 are still outstanding; 44 of which are awaiting routine requests for information on pay from the other services and 23 are pending resolution of medical queries. In the same period, there were 11 re-entrant officer applications; eight of these applicants have already re-entered service. Of the balance, one has yet to accept a job offer, one is awaiting a medical and the third's application is still being processed.

In the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, the Army Personnel Centre completed 2,911 applications for re-enlistment. A further 1,226 applications made during that period are still pending.

During financial year 2008-09, there were a total of 42 ex-service personnel who applied to join the RAF, 16 of whom are still waiting for a final decision. Of these 16, eight are Officers (five are waiting for training places while the remaining three are still going through the selection process) and eight are Other Ranks (all waiting for training places).

In the Army, during the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2009, the longest period an applicant has had to wait for re-enlistment is two years 115 days. The relevant Army authorities are currently investigating the reasons behind this delay. It is not possible, within the time constraints, to determine the longest period that an individual has had to wait for a decision on a re-entry application within the RN and RAF.

Colombia: Military Aid

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has provided training to the Colombian military in counter-guerrilla operations; and if he will make a statement. [271087]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1310W, to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle). The UK has not provided specific counter-guerrilla training to the Colombian military.

I also refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS, by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in which he set out the UK Government's current work and future aims in Colombia.

Defence Act 1842

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the powers contained within the Defence Act 1842 have been used since May 1997. [272399]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Act 1842 includes various statutory powers. The Ministry of Defence does not record centrally each and every occasion that any one of these powers has been used, whether before or after May 1997.

EU Battlegroups

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what exercises with European Union military formations UK armed forces are committed for the next 18 months; and in which exercises they have participated in the last 12 months. [272383]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no standing European Union military formations, and the European Union does not conduct military exercises apart from headquarters-level planning exercises.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which European Union military formations UK armed forces currently have a potential obligation; and on what scale in each case. [272386]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no standing European Union military formations. All forces belong to member states until volunteered to the EU on a case-by-case basis.

The UK has made a voluntary commitment to lead Operation Atalanta, the EU naval counter-piracy naval force off the coast of Somalia, until the end of the current mandate of 13 December 2009. The UK provides

the Operation Commander and the Multinational Operation Headquarters (OHQ) at Northwood, with UK armed forces filling 49 of these OHQ posts. The UK provided HMS Northumberland from the start of the operation (8 December) to 28 February. Contribution of any further UK assets to the operation is dependent on force generation requirements and UK operational priorities, but there are currently no plans.

The EU mission Operation Althea continues in Bosnia Herzegovina and the UK retains nine posts in the headquarters of the EU force (EUFOR) in Sarajevo.

The ESDP mission to Chad and the Central African Republic reached the end of its mandate on 15 March 2009 and is now completing its handover to the UN follow-on force Minurcat II. Under standing augmentation procedures, the UK previously provided four staff officers to the headquarters, of whom, two now remain in post while the operation draws to a close.

The UK has made a voluntary commitment to provide an EU Battlegroup on stand-by from January to June 2010. This will be met by forces from the Lead Commando Group element of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF), which will consist of forces drawn from the long-standing UK-Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force. We have also offered to provide a joint UK-Swedish Battlegroup on stand-by from January to June 2013. Battlegroups would only deploy on operations following a unanimous decision from all 27 EU member states.

The UK Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) at Northwood is one of five national OHQs declared available for European Union (EU) military operations; the other four are at Mont Valerien (Paris), Potsdam (Germany), Rome (Italy) and Larissa (Greece).

PJHQ will provide the OHQ building and technical and administrative support, including trained core staff, for the Nordic Battlegroup during its time as one of the two EU Battlegroups on stand-by between January and June 2011.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what position the Government's delegation to the March OCCAR meeting took on adoption of the three-month moratorium on a decision on the A400M programme; and what the reasons for that position were. [271814]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK supported the decision to enter a 'without commitment' standstill period. Its purpose is to enable the Partner Nations and Airbus Military to explore all possible options in more detail without prejudicing the rights of either party under the existing contract.

This additional information will inform national and joint decisions in due course.

Military Intelligence

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the acquisition of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets in each year since 1997; and what plans he has for future acquisition of such assets. [271394]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The expenditure on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets since 1997 is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Our future plans include a number of programmes which contribute to intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance capability. For example, the Helix programme for airborne electronic surveillance; Dabinett for management of the direction, processing and dissemination of intelligence and for deep and persistent surveillance; and the Watchkeeper tactical unmanned aerial vehicle system. There are also programmes to invest further in Electronic Warfare systems and surveillance systems such as Sentry E-3D UK Airborne Early Warning capability and the Sea King Mk 7 Airborne Surveillance and Control variant.

Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits he has made to Northern Ireland on official business in the last 12 months. [272862]

Mr. Hutton: I have not yet visited Northern Ireland since my appointment in October 2008. My predecessor the right hon. Des Browne did not visit Northern Ireland between May and October 2008.

Territorial Army

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Territorial Army barracks are under review following the report of the Reserves Review. [272497]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Volunteer estate, which currently consists of over 2,000 sites, is a key element of the reserve forces, not only providing unit locations and training facilities but also retaining the important military footprint across the UK and the associated ability to connect with the nation. The review confirmed the importance of the Volunteer estate but noted that much of it was old, expensive, underused and located to serve the population centres of the 19th century as opposed to those of the 21st century. To ensure that the reserves have an estate that is modern, provides value for money and is correctly located to match changes in the demographics and national infrastructure, the Review recommended that the Ministry of Defence conduct a detailed requirements-based study. We will be forming a team to conduct this detailed work which will need to consider all of the estate. No decisions have been made.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army posts will be affected by the implementation of the recommendations of the review of reserves. [272818]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Review does not make any recommendations on numbers of Territorial Army posts. The aim of the review was to ensure that the Reserve Forces are correctly structured to meet current and future challenges and it made a number of recommendations to achieve this. However, further work is required to determine the best means to deliver the capabilities required.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 238W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional annual value of such provision is. [271928]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Representatives for each recognised trade union and staff association or federation are provided with equipped office space in an appropriate location, including facilities to work in accordance with that provided for other staff in the buildings on site.

The notional annual value of such provision for these facilities is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 238W, on trade unions, which trades unions his Department's agencies recognise. [271929]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence currently recognises the following trade unions and staff associations, which represent staff in a wide range of grades, trades and professions. This recognition applies across the Department which includes its Agencies:

Non-Industrial Trade Unions

FDA

Prospect

PCS (Public and Commercial Services Union)

Industrial Trades Unions

Unite (Amicus Section)

Unite (Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) Section)

GMB (General and Municipal Boilermakers)

UCATT (Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians)

Staff Associations

CPOA (Chief Police Officers Association)

DPF (Defence Police Federation)

ROA (Retired Officers Association)

Maritime Trade Unions

Nautilus UK

RMT (National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers)

Medical Grades and Civilian Practitioners:

BMA (British Medical Association)

Teaching Grades

ATL (The Association of Teachers and Lecturers)

NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers)

NASUWT (The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers)

NUT (National Union of Teachers)

ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders

Locally Engaged Civilians Overseas

Germany

Ver.di (Vereinigte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft)

Gibraltar

Unite (TGWU Section)

Unite (TGWU Section)-ACTSS (Association of Clerical Technical and Supervisory Staff)

Prospect-GGCA (Gibraltar General and Clerical Association)

Gibraltar Services Police Staff Association

Cyprus

SEK (Federation of Government, Military and Civil Service Workers).

PEO (Pan Cyprian Federation of Labour-Government/Military and Social Institute Servants).

PASYDY (Pancyprian Public Servants' Trade Union).

TURK-SEN (Turkish Cypriot Trade Union Federation)

SBA (Sovereign Bases Abroad) Police Association.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Burma on the investigation of the rape and mutilation of a schoolgirl in Kachin state on 27 July 2008. [250798]

Bill Rammell: We have not raised this specific, tragic case with the Burmese authorities. However, through our embassy in Rangoon, and in the UN's Human Rights bodies, we continue to take every opportunity to press the regime to uphold international human rights norms and protect vulnerable groups, including women and ethnic minorities.

On 21 November 2008, the UK helped secure a UN General Assembly resolution which expressed grave concern at the continued discrimination and hardships suffered by ethnic minority groups, and the broader human rights situation in Burma. We call on the regime to adhere to its international obligations and co-operate fully with the UN special rapporteur, Thomas Ojea Quintana, who last visited Burma from 3-7 August 2008.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262801]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office do not give staff any additional leave for Christmas shopping, nor does it pay a Christmas bonus.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 131 of the 2009 Budget Red Book, what effect the savings he expects to achieve through contract negotiations with his Department's existing telecommunications supplier will have on his Department's IT services; and if he will make a statement. [271453]

David Miliband: The contract was originally agreed in 2000. Improvements in technology since 2000 have meant the levels of service needed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) can now be delivered at lower unit cost. The negotiations referred to ensure that

these lower costs are available to the FCO. The newer technologies available provide faster, more reliable services, allowing FCO staff to work more efficiently.

Departmental Security Guards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which private security companies are employed by his Department in volatile countries; what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* monetary value is of each contract; and what local arrangements are in place to manage each contract. [266900]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) continues to contract private security companies (PSCs) to provide guarding of our staff and missions in high-threat environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan, as follows:

Iraq:

Mobile Security—Control Risks—£20,831,233 from 1 July 2007—30 June 2008.

Static Security—Gardaworld—£5,427,186 from 1 July 2007—30 June 2008.

Intelligence Analysts—Minimal Risks—£867,475 from 1 October 2007—30 September 2008.

Vehicle Maintenance—Armorgroup—£606,019 from 27 February 2008—26 February 2009.

Afghanistan:

Mobile Security—Armorgroup—£16,733,399 from 1 January 2008—31 December 2008.

Static Security—Armorgroup—£2,867,228 from 1 January 2008—31 December 2008.

Vehicle Maintenance—Armorgroup—£606,019 from 27 February 2008—26 February 2009.

Police Mentors and Advisers—Armorgroup—£869,625 from 1 October 2007—30 September 2008.

Primary Healthcare—Edinburgh International—£121,380 from 1 January 2008—31 December 2008.

The values quoted relate only to the specific periods stated, and not necessarily to the entire duration of the respective contracts.

All PSCs are subject to ongoing performance monitoring and contract management by the FCO, both in country and from the UK. The FCO monitors performance by key performance indicators, regular visits and reports by overseas security advisors, regular review meetings in London with PSCs, and monitoring expenditure against a fully profiled budget.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 518W, which asked what assessment my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made of the use of private armed security companies in volatile countries.

Entry Clearances: Sports

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 85-88WS, on departmental expenditure limits, under what circumstances UK visas are offered gratis to fans planning to visit the UK to attend sporting events; on how many occasions such visas were provided in 2007-08; and what the cost to his Department of such visas was, broken down by category of expenditure. [260887]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Gratis visas may be issued in a range of circumstances, commonly as a matter of international courtesy. This means that the visa applicant does not pay a fee for the application to be considered but another Government Department reimburses the Home Office for the lost fee income.

Our records show that in 2007-08 no gratis visas were issued to fans visiting the UK to attend sporting events.

In May 2008 we accepted 2,169 short-term visit visa applications from fans of FC Zenit St. Petersburg travelling to Manchester for the UEFA Cup Final without a fee being paid by the applicant, normally £65. This was in part in recognition of the waiver of visa requirement by the Russian Government for fans of Chelsea FC and Manchester United FC travelling to the UEFA Champions League Final in Moscow later in the same month, which Manchester United won on penalties. The cost to the FCO was £104,000 in reimbursing the Home Office for lost fee income. Our records show that this is the only occasion in 2008-09 to date where gratis visas have been issued to fans visiting the UK to attend sporting events.

EU Institutions: Manpower

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what percentage of applications to each *(a)* European Commission, *(b)* Council of the European Union and *(c)* European Parliament traineeship programme have been from UK nationals since March 1997; and what percentage of places under each such scheme have been awarded to UK nationals in the same period; [270840]

(2) how many UK nationals *(a)* applied for and *(b)* have been accepted for traineeships in each (i) European Parliament and (ii) Council of the European Union programme since March 1997. [270841]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office do not hold this information. The relevant data are owned by each EU Institution. The Government are clear that it is in the EU and UK's interests to have successful UK candidates working at the heart of the EU's institutions.

Intelligence Services: Equality

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of *(a)* field-based and *(b)* office-based Secret Intelligence Service officers were of each (a) ethnicity, (b) religious faith and (c) sex in each year since 2001. [258551]

Gillian Merron: It is Government policy not to comment on intelligence matters, including information about Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) staff numbers.

The Intelligence and Security Committee has reported on matters relating to SIS's recruitment and staffing policies in its annual reports. Diversity issues relating to SIS were most recently covered in the 2004-05 annual report (paragraph 53, column 6510).

Iran

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Iranian and *(b)* EU counterparts on the treatment of the Baha'i and other religious minorities in Iran. [249295]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* We are deeply concerned by the treatment of the Baha'i community and other religious minorities in Iran. In particular, we have consistently voiced our concern about the continued detention without charge of the seven Baha'i leaders who were arrested in April and May 2008, and through the EU and bilaterally have made several representations to the Iranian authorities calling for their immediate and unconditional release—most recently in a public EU declaration on 26 September.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not met or spoken with his Iranian counterpart since April 2008, and last met the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in September 2008. However, I met the Iranian ambassador on 20 November 2008, and raised our concerns about human rights issues including the draft penal code, which would impose a mandatory death sentence for apostasy.

We, along with EU partners, will continue to press Iran to fully uphold the right to freedom of religion and to end the persecution of Baha'is in Iran.

Iran: Bahai Faith

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Iran on the treatment of members of the Baha'i faith in that country; and if he will make a statement. [272377]

Bill Rammell: We take every opportunity to raise our concerns about the treatment of the Iranian Baha'is, both in bilateral and EU meetings with the Iranian Government. We have repeatedly urged them to take steps to end the persecution of religious minorities. On 18 March 2009 the EU presidency issued a declaration expressing concern about the numerous human rights violations in Iran and urged them to comply with their human rights obligations. I issued a public statement on 16 February 2009, about the imminent trial of seven leading members of the Iranian Baha'is which was strongly supported by an EU statement on 17 February 2009, calling on the Iranian Government to reconsider the charges, ensure that any trial is fair and to allow independent observation of the judicial proceedings.

We will continue to urge the Iranian Government to take their international human rights obligations seriously including the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights—to which Iran is a state party.

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what events held in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Israel to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tel Aviv he has been invited; what such invitations he has (i) accepted and (ii) declined; and if he will make a statement. [272174]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any invitations to events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tel Aviv. However, our ambassador to Tel Aviv has accepted invitations to commemorate the 100th anniversary.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of persons allegedly murdered in the Gaza Strip by Hamas members since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [272175]

Bill Rammell: According to the Amnesty International report published in April 2009, between 27 December 2008 and 31 March 2009 there have been at least 32 extra-judicial killings which were committed by either Hamas security forces or gunmen believed to be associated with Hamas.

The UK clearly condemns these acts of violence and will continue to call for Hamas to renounce violence.

Pakistan: Prisoners

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations has he made to the Government of Pakistan on the case of James McLintock; and on what date he most recently discussed the detention of James McLintock with his Pakistani counterpart; [272368]

(2) what steps the High Commission in Pakistan has taken to secure access to James McLintock. [272369]

Bill Rammell: Since we were made aware of unconfirmed reports that Mr. James McLintock had been arrested in Pakistan, officials in London and from our high commission in Islamabad, including the deputy high commissioner, have been pressing the Pakistan authorities for confirmation that Mr. McLintock is being detained and if so, for consular access to be granted. Our most recent representation was made by a senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office official directly to the Pakistani high commissioner in London on 30 April 2009.

Repatriation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many prison places in Ilorin prison he expects to be provided under the Returns and Reintegration Fund. [266270]

Bill Rammell: We are discussing with the Nigerian Government a range of assistance to the Nigeria Prison Service through the Returns and Reintegration Fund to support reform and improve conditions. This includes equipping an uncommissioned prison in Ilorin, which has a capacity to hold around 160 inmates. Final plans on assistance are yet to be confirmed.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek agreement at EU level to exclude the waters off occupied Western Sahara from future fisheries agreement with Morocco. [271572]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to seek agreement at EU level to exclude the waters off the undetermined territory of Western Sahara from any future fisheries agreement with Morocco.

Future negotiations on the expiry of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) will take into account any changes in the situation of Western Sahara that may occur before the FPA's expiry in 2011.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Moroccan Government on *(a)* ending the movement of members of the Moroccan civilian population into the occupied Western Sahara and *(b)* the application of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. [271538]

Bill Rammell: We have not discussed the movement of population between Morocco and Western Sahara, or the application of article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention, and have no current plans to discuss either matter with the Moroccan Government.

The Government see the status of Western Sahara as undetermined and continue to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute, providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross.

Yvonne Fletcher

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last had discussions with the Libyan Government on bringing to justice those responsible for the death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [272533]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the investigation into the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher when he met with the then Libyan Foreign Minister, Abdurrahman Shalgam on his visit to London in January 2008. I also raised the investigation into WPC Fletcher's murder with the Libyan Minister for Europe last month and again when I visited Libya in February this year. Officials also continue to raise the failure of Libya to allow the Metropolitan Police to complete its investigations in Libya.

Securing full Libyan co-operation with the Metropolitan Police Service investigation into this murder continues to be a key objective in our relations with Libya.

In all our conversations with the Libyan Government on the investigation into the murder of WPC Fletcher, we make it clear that they made a commitment to co-operate fully with the Metropolitan Police Service's investigation. The Government will continue to demand co-operation from the Libyan authorities and insist that they allow the Metropolitan Police to return to Libya to continue their investigation.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: Conferences

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many UK Ministers and officials attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan on 13 December 2008; and what method of transportation each used. [246697]

Joan Ruddock: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference in Poznan in December 2009, known as the 14th Conference of the Parties (or COP14) was attended by two Ministers and 45 officials. Delegates attended from different Departments across Whitehall to ensure the full range of issues could be addressed by UK experts. Of the total, 33 delegates attended from the Department of Energy and Climate Change

The Ministers in attendance were Secretary of State Ed Miliband, and Parliamentary Under-Secretary Joan Ruddock.

The 47 delegates travelled to and from Poznan in the following proportions:

	Number
By air to Warsaw and rail to Poznan	16
By air to Poznan, including both Ed Miliband and Joan Ruddock	30
By rail from the British embassy in Warsaw	1

All emissions resulting from DECC's international commitments are offset. In April 2006 the UK developed a Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) as part of the wider UK Sustainable Development Strategy to meet the commitment to offset emissions arising from official and ministerial air travel.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 404W, on the economic situation, what estimate he has made of the carbon cost of the meeting of energy and oil Ministers in London on 18 and 19 December 2008; and whether his Department took steps to offset such carbon expenditure. [270963]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has made no estimate of the carbon cost of the meeting of international energy and oil Ministers in London on 18 and 19 December 2008. No specific steps were taken by the Department to offset this impact. I have no information on the extent to which participants may have taken steps themselves to offset the carbon impact of their attendance at the meeting.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grant applications were received by the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in each year since the scheme began. [270542]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 27 April 2009]*: The number of grant applications received by the Low Carbon Buildings Programme from *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in each year since the scheme began is shown in the following tables.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1

Communities

Number of applications

	England	*Lancashire*	*Ribble Valley*
2006-07			
Schools	35	0	0
Other Public Buildings	11	0	0
2007-08			
Schools	1	0	0
Other Public Buildings	0	0	0

Stream 2A (£100,000 and below)

Number of applications

	England	*Lancashire*	*Ribble Valley*
2007-08			
Schools	26	2	0
Hospitals	1	1	1
Other Public Buildings	10	1	0

Stream 2B (£1 million and below)

Number of applications

	England	*Lancashire*	*Ribble Valley*
2006-07			
Schools	1	0	0
Other Public Buildings	1	0	0
2007-08			
Schools	1	0	0
Hospitals	1	0	0
Other Public Buildings	5	1	0

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2

£

		Ribble Valley constituency	*Lancashire*	*England*
Schools	2007-08	0	178,252.93	1,834,958.47
	2008-09	0	95500.74	6,384,981.34
Sub-total		0	273,753.67	8,219,939.81
Hospitals	2007-08	0	0	141809.06
	2008-09	0	52,439.50	52439.5
Sub-total		0	52439.5	194248.56
Other public buildings	2007-08	0	137,475.14	4,363,527.85
	2008-09	0	748,872.26	11,531,758.43
Sub-total		0	886,347.40	15,895,286.28
Total		0	1,212,540.57	24,309,474.65

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grants have been made through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in each year since the scheme began. [270544]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 27 April 2009]*: The following grants have been made through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme from *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in each year since the scheme began:

Low carbon buildings programme phase 1

	England		*Lancashire*		*Ribble Valley*	
	No applications	*Grant offered (£)*	*No applications*	*Grant offered (£)*	*No applications*	*Grant offered (£)*
Communities						
2006-07						
Schools	22	307,037.27	0	0	0	0
Other public buildings	9	160,069.62	0	0	0	0
2007-08						
Schools	2	40,932.00	0	0	0	0
Other public buildings	7	137,493.65	0	0	0	0
Stream 2A (£100,000 and below)						
2007-08						
Schools	13	341,272.65	0	0	0	0

Low carbon buildings programme phase 1

	England		Lancashire		Ribble Valley	
	No applications	*Grant offered (£)*	*No applications*	*Grant offered (£)*	*No applications*	*Grant offered (£)*
Hospitals	1	8,696.54	1	8,696.54	1	8,696.54
Other public buildings	4	198,858.80	0	0	0	0
Stream 2B (£1 million and below)						
2006-07						
Schools	1	194,000.00	0	0	0	0
Other public buildings	1	273,863.00	0	0	0	0
2007-08						
Schools	1	175,000.00	0	0	0	0
Other public buildings	4	629,226.00	1	197,052.00	0	0

Low carbon buildings programme phase 2

£

	Ribble Valley constituency	*Lancashire*	*England*
Schools	0	273,753.67	8,219,939.81
Hospitals	0	52,439.5	194,248.56
Other public buildings	0	886,347.40	15,895,286.28

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of grant applications received by the London borough of Bexley have been successful in each year since the scheme began; and how much has been paid in such grants in each year. [270924]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of grant applications received by the Low Carbon Buildings Programme from the London borough of Bexley which have been successful in each year since the scheme began; and how much has been paid in such grants in each year are as shown in the following table:

	Number of grants offered	*Grant amount (£)*	*Number of grants paid*	*Payment amount (£)*
2006-07	8	7,072.47	6	6,290.00
2007-08	5	4,100.00	3	3,300.00
2008-09	1	400.00	0	0.00
2009-10	1	400.00	0	0.00
Total	15	11,972.47	9	9,590.00

The Energy Saving Trust only hold data by local authority area for domestic grants and so non-domestic grants are not included in the data.

However under Phase 2 of the scheme there has been one application from the London borough of Bexley which has also been successful in obtaining a grant of £64,000.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grant applications have been received by the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each year since the scheme began. [271262]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of grant applications that have been received by the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each year since the scheme began are tabled as follows:

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1

	Communities			
	Hertfordshire		*Hemel Hempstead*	
2006-07	*Number of applications*	*Grant offered (£)*	*Number of applications*	*Grant offered (£)*
Schools	1	3,000.00	0	0
Other public buildings	0	0	0	0

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2

£

		Hemel Hempstead	*Hertfordshire*
Schools	2007-08	12,054.17	99,681.32
	2008-09	0	106,725.66
Hospitals	2007-08	0	0
	2008-09	0	0
Other public buildings	2007-08	0	90,820.37
	2008-09	55,740.00	139,925.63
Total		67,794.17	437,152.98

Nuclear Power: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what cost recovery will be applied to operators of nuclear plants in respect of the proportion of the public investment in new transmission links relating to distribution of nuclear generated electricity arising from the programme for uplifting national infrastructure set out at paragraph 3.31 of the Government document New Industry, New Jobs, published on 20 April 2009. [271758]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The costs for providing grid infrastructure for all forms of electricity generation, including nuclear are recovered from generators via National Grid's charging methodology at:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Charges/

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the subsidy to support low carbon energy industries under the fund announced in the New Industry, New Jobs programme on 20 April 2009 is available to support nuclear energy projects. [271759]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 22 April, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a £750 million Strategic Investment Fund to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance. £250 million of this fund will be earmarked for low carbon investments. Decisions on how his will be spent will be made in the coming weeks.

Government acknowledge the role of nuclear power in the global move to a low carbon economy. Government anticipate helping to ensure business in the UK is able to make the most of the opportunities available in low carbon industries, including the global civil nuclear industry, by supporting strategic investments, including by using allocations from the fund where appropriate. This forms part of the Government's Low Carbon Industrial Strategy.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to answer question 246697, tabled by the right hon. Member for Wokingham on 12 January 2009, on attendance at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan. [269343]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave today to his question 246697.

Renewable Energy

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of homes he estimates will be supplied with electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020. [271085]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK renewable energy strategy consultation document set out scenarios for deployment of renewable energy needed to meet the UK's share of the EU renewable energy target. The central scenario presented in the consultation document:

www.berr.gov.uk/renewableconsultation

suggested that the UK might need to produce around 32 per cent. electricity demand by 2020.

Total energy demand for the domestic sector in 2020 (around 30 million homes) was estimated at the time of the consultation to be around 105 to 110TWh, around 28.5 per cent. electricity demand.

In reality households will receive their electricity from a mixture of fuel types and not all renewable electricity generated will be supplied to domestic households. These figures will be updated in the renewable energy strategy.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of homes are supplied by electricity from renewable energy sources. [271086]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2007, the UK generated 19,664 GWh of electricity from renewable sources, sufficient for around 4.2 million homes, based on the average household electricity consumption of 4,670 KWh (just over 16 per cent. of UK homes).

In reality households will receive their electricity from a mixture of fuel types and not all renewable electricity generated will be supplied to domestic households.

Warm Front Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many times his Department's officials have discussed complaints made by the hon. Member for Bassetlaw about Warm Front with Eaga *(a)* by telephone, *(b)* by electronic and written correspondence and *(c)* in meetings. [265989]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has not discussed such complaints with Eaga by means of written or electronic correspondence and does not record phone calls made to Eaga. Such complaints, however, have been discussed on two occasions in meetings between officials and Eaga and as my hon. Friend is aware he and I met to discuss these issues on April 30.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 933W, on the Warm Front scheme, when he expects his Department's review of the eligibility criteria for the Warm Front scheme to be concluded. [266664]

Joan Ruddock: A number of changes to the Warm Front scheme were announced on 23 April, including increases to the maximum grants—from £2,700 to £3,500 for those properties on the gas grid, and from £4,000 to £6,000 for harder to treat properties off the gas grid.

A review of fuel poverty policies is currently under way with initial findings expected in early summer. The review is examining whether we can make existing fuel poverty policies more effective, including exploring whether we can identify and target assistance at the most vulnerable households more effectively.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Responsibilities

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what contribution his Department's Energy and Climate Change Unit has made to the development of Government policy on energy in the last 12 months; [272074]

(2) what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* budget of his Department's Energy and Climate Change Unit is for 2009-10; [272075]

(3) what arrangements are in place to ensure the effective co-ordination of activities between his Department's Energy and Climate Change Unit and the Department for Energy and Climate Change; [272076]

Mr. McFadden: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is responsible for energy and climate change policy. The Energy and Climate Change Unit in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) was set up in autumn 2008 following the formation of the new DECC. BERR has a remit to work within Whitehall as the 'voice for business' on all policy areas where business might have an interest. The Unit therefore works closely with DECC and other Whitehall Departments to ensure that business views are fully taken into account in the development of energy and climate change policies. The Unit represents BERR interests on cross-departmental groups, led by DECC, tasked with delivering the Government's energy and climate change objectives. The Climate Change Projects Office is also located within the Unit and promotes UK private sector involvement and opportunities in the international carbon market.

The 2009-10 administration costs budget for the Unit is being finalised at present. Programme requirements will be met from the Department's business sponsorship budget.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 952W, on home information packs, how many notifications the Office of Fair Trading has received of penalty charge notices being issued in relation to home information pack duties; and in respect of which local authority areas. [270187]

Mr. Thomas: In general terms, and subject to transitional arrangements, under the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 estate agents have been required to commission a Home Information Pack (HIP) prior to marketing a property.

A local authority can serve a penalty charge notice (PCN) on the estate agent if they fail to comply with these duties. The local authority is required to advise the OFT of any PCN it issues. However it is not required to notify the OFT of every infringement it detects or other types of enforcement action it has taken such as advice, verbal or written warnings etc.

The OFT was notified of one PCN that had been issued, but this was subsequently withdrawn by the issuing authority.

The OFT is aware that other enforcement action has been taken by local authorities in relation to duties under the HIPs regime but that did not result in PCNs being issued. This information will be held by individual services and has not been formally reported to the OFT.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the percentage split of profits arising from the joint venture between Post Office Ltd and the Bank of Ireland is. [273086]

(2) what cash profit Post Office Ltd has made as a result of the joint venture with the Bank of Ireland. [273087]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational and commercial matters for Post Office Ltd.

I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd., to reply direct to my hon. Friend. Copies of the letters will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Rover Group

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Companies Act investigation into MG Rover had cost on the latest date for which figures are available; when he expects the investigation to be completed; what estimate he has made of the total cost of the investigation; and if he will make a statement. [271417]

Mr. McFadden: The total cost of the Rover inquiry as at 31 March 2009 was £15,191,376 (broken down as £12,502,416 in costs, £447,406 in disbursements and £2,241,554 in VAT).

As is normal in Companies Act inspections the inspectors were not given a specific target date for the completion of their investigation, nor are they working to a pre-determined financial ceiling. Either might restrict the depth and thoroughness of their inquiry.

Royal Mail

Frank Dobson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals are advising (i) the Secretary of State and (ii) Royal Mail on the proposed part-privatisation of Royal Mail. [271742]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 29 April 2009]:* UBS, Freshfields and Deloitte are advising my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State on this matter and Rothschild and Slaughter and May are advising Royal Mail.

There are no individuals advising either the Government or Royal Mail.

Short-Time Working

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* businesses that are operating short-time working practices and *(b)* people on short-time working. [272500]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows:

(a) Data on businesses that are operating short-time working practices are not centrally collected because businesses do not have to inform Government of changes in their terms and conditions of employment.

(b) Estimates of the number of people on short-time working can be made from the Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey. In Quarter 4 (October to December) 2008 around 60 thousand UK employees are estimated to be on short-time working practices. This represents 0.2 per cent. of all UK employees.

This estimate defines short-time working as the number of employees whose actual hours worked, when surveyed, were fewer than their usual hours worked due to economic causes.

Telephone Services

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what powers Ofcom has to *(a)* investigate and *(b)* take action in respect of inaccurate claims made by telephone service provider sales staff in relation to the transfer of existing numbers associated with the BT Call Sign service. [271032]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Trading Funds

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the Trading Funds Assessment. [272082]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The findings of the Trading Funds Assessment were made public on the 21 April 2009 with the publication of the final report of the Operational Efficiency Programme:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/oep_final_report_210409_pu728.pdf

Written Questions: Government Responses

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to answer question 259782, on the Aspire Fund, tabled on 24 February 2009. [265583]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1063W.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many documents his Department received from *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(b)* RBS as a result of their participation in the Asset Protection scheme; and if he will make a statement. [268083]

Ian Pearson: In the course of negotiating participation in the Asset Protection scheme (APS) and in the associated due diligence and information gathering, some 5,000 documents have been provided from participating banks as of 20 April.

In completing the due diligence process and establishing the operation of the scheme we expect further documents from the banks.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding was allocated for the child care element of the working tax credit in each year since 2003; and how much has been spent from that allocation in each such year. [272595]

Angela Eagle: The child care element is an integral part of tax credits. There is no separate funding allocation for the child care element of working tax credits but information on the average amount of help awarded and the number of families benefiting from the child care element can be found in table 2.4 of the HMRC publications, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards", for 2003-04 to 2006-07. These publications can be found on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Figures for 2007-08 will be available in May 2009.

Information on the total amount spent each year by HMRC on tax credits can be found in its annual departmental reports which are available on its website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Coins: Forgery

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Royal Mint has made of the number of counterfeit £1 coins in circulation. [273492]

Ian Pearson: The most recent survey conducted by the Royal Mint found that its sample contained a £1 coin counterfeit rate of 2.58 per cent.

Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of progress on the Operational Efficiency programme. [271172]

Yvette Cooper: The final report of the Operational Efficiency Programme was published on 21 April 2009 and it is available on the following website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/vfm_operational_efficiency.htm

As announced in the Budget 2009 document, the Government accept the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme and all Departments will be working to implement and deliver the additional value for money savings identified through the programme.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 91W, on departmental bank services, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each contract between his Department and each of the banks listed in the answer. [268303]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury has contracted with those banks for the provision of financial advice during the financial year 2008-09.

Figures for the Treasury's spending in 2008-09 will be available in the Department's resource accounts 2008-09 after the conclusion of the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit.

Economic Growth

Mr. Ames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his statement of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 237, what the evidential basis is for the statement that he expects the economy to start growing towards the end of 2009; and if he will make a statement. [272246]

Ian Pearson: A detailed assessment of economic prospects including those relating to GDP growth in the UK is set out in chapter B of the 2009 Financial Statement and Budget Report (HC 407).

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue to the Exchequer from the 2 per cent. increase in alcohol duty in each of the next three years. [272323]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs publishes estimates of the revenue effects of alcohol duty rate changes on its website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

Financial Services Authority

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 406W, on financial services: standards to question *(a)* 265933, *(b)* 265929, *(c)* 265934, *(d)* 265922, *(e)* 265925, *(f)* 265927, *(g)* 265924 and *(h)* 265926, when he expects the Financial Services Authority to write to the hon. Member for Putney. [271817]

Ian Pearson: I understand that the FSA has recently replied to the hon. Member.

Government Departments: Assets

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what guidelines govern the procedures by which *(a)* Government Departments and *(b)* Executive agencies are permitted to insure their assets; [272035]

(2) whether *(a)* Government Departments and *(b)* Executive agencies are permitted to carry forward reserves held as contingency sums as an alternative to the insurance of assets. [272036]

Yvette Cooper: The principles behind the Government's approach to insurance are explained in sections 4.4 and 5.2 of "Managing Public Money", the Government's guide to proper standards of conduct in the treatment of public funds (see www.hm-treasury.gov.uk). There is a general guide to treatment of risk at section 4.3 of the same document.

Loans: Debts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of personal loan accounts were in reportable arrears in each quarter to date since 1997. [262537]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not hold these data.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which categories of *(a)* housebuilder and *(b)* low carbon sustainable homes will be eligible for support from the £100 million of new capital being made available under Chapter 5, section 5.76 and Chapter 7, section 7.17 of the 2009 Budget Report. [271766]

Angela Eagle: Budget 2009 provided up to £100 million for local authorities over two years to deliver new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards. The funding will be allocated via a competitive bidding process, which will be open to all local authorities in England. The Homes and Communities Agency will set out criteria for bids shortly, including meeting the energy efficiency commitment.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 23 March 2009 on his constituent, Mr D. Randall. [272591]

Mr. Timms: There is no record of receipt of this correspondence at HM Treasury. Copies have been requested from the hon. Member's office and will be dealt with as soon as possible on receipt.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 12 March 2009 on his constituent, Mr Gray. [272593]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 13 March 2009 on his constituent, Mrs N. Finlay. [272594]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mortgages

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the amount of mortgage lending which has funded *(a)* new build, *(b)* mortgages for first-time buyers and *(c)* high loan-to-value ratio mortgages in the last (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [270435]

Ian Pearson: The Council of Mortgage Lenders publishes data relating to the mortgage market, including the number and value of loans to first-time buyers and average loan-to-value ratios, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

These figures are published on a monthly basis.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received from the motor trade on the effect on car dealers of the provisions in the Finance Act 2008 specifying that only registered owners of vehicles can apply for rebates of vehicle excise duty; and what estimate has been made by his Department of the costs to the motor trade of those provisions. [272325]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

As detailed in my answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 104W, by advising their customers to take the tax disc for a refund when selling a car into the trade, car dealers can preserve the financial benefit of Vehicle Excise Duty refunds for all parties.

The Treasury does not expect to receive additional revenue as a result of this change.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reintroduce historic accounting systems for Government expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [269330]

Yvette Cooper: Since the introduction of resource accounting and budgeting in 2001-02, Government expenditure has been reported in resource accounts that conform to generally accepted accounting practice, subject to such adaptations as are necessary, as required under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. Resource accounts are prepared applying the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of fixed assets to fair value. Where material, current asset investments and stocks are similarly valued as determined by the relevant accounting standards. On the switch to reporting under International Financial Reporting Standards from 2009-10, modified historical cost accounting will be maintained.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what predicted Government expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product is in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14. [272501]

Yvette Cooper: Public sector expenditure projections for the years 2009-10 to 2013-14, as a percentage of gross domestic product, are shown in table C5 of the Budget 2009 document.

Public Sector: Land

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what public sector land will be made available for development, as referred to in paragraph 5.78 of the Budget 2009 Red Book. [271373]

Angela Eagle: The Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable', published in July 2007, announced the Government's target to deliver 200,000 new homes on surplus public sector land by 2016. Government are on track to meet the target. The Surplus Public Sector Land programme, overseen by Communities and Local Government and managed by the Homes and Communities Agency, has been set up to identify where and when this land becomes available.

Information on what surplus public sector land is available for development is available through two main sources:

1. The Register of Surplus Public Sector Land, managed by the Homes and Communities Agency, provides a quarterly publication of sites that are owned by central Government Departments and their agencies. Currently over 700 sites, covering about 5,000 hectares of land, were listed in the most recent quarterly report published in March 2009. This report is available on the Homes and Communities Agency website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/Surplus_public_sector_land

2. The National Land Use Database of Previously Developed Land (NLUD-PDL), completed annually by individual local authorities, records previously developed land that may be available for redevelopment within their area. In 2007, NLUD-PDL recorded an estimated 62,130 hectares of land, of which just over a quarter was owned by local authorities and other public bodies. The 2007 NLUD report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/945914.pdf

Research and Development Tax Credit

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies operating in the UK's life sciences sector have received research and development tax credits in each of the last three years; and what proportion of those were *(a)* large companies and *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises. [272037]

Angela Eagle: The most recent National Statistics on R and D tax credits, published on the HMRC website on 19 December 2008, cover financial years up to 2006-07.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

Information on claims for R and D tax credits by companies operating in the life sciences sector is not available because the data are broken down by industry sector using the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (SIC), and life sciences are not identified as a separate sector in this classification.

Social Security Benefits

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* the basic state pension, *(b)* single pensioners' means tested benefit, *(c)* child benefit for up to two children, *(d)* incapacity benefit and *(e)* jobseeker's allowance or income support for a person

(i) under 25 and (ii) over 25 years old was in (A) nominal and (B) real terms in each year since 1983; and what the percentage change in each was from each year to the next. [260674]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The available information on benefit rates up to 2008-09 has been placed in the Library. This includes child benefit rates from 5 January 2009, as announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report. Real-terms rates are presented in April 2008 prices.

Benefit rates which came into effect on 6 April 2009 are shown in the following table. It is not possible to present the real-terms rates in April 2009 prices at this time as the April 2009 Retail Price and ROSSI index figures will not be published until 19 May 2009.

Benefit	*April 2009 rate (actual rate)* (£)
Basic State Pension (Single pensioner)[1,2]	95.25
Basic State Pension (Couples aged 60 and over)[1,3]	152.30
Pension Credit (single person aged 60 and over)[4]	130.00
Pension Credit (couples aged 60 and over)[4]	198.45
Incapacity Benefit[5]	89.80
Income Support (single claimant aged 18 to 24)[6]	50.95
Income Support (single claimant aged 25+)[6]	64.30
Income Support (couple both aged 18+)[6]	100.95

[1] The rates quoted are standard rates for those with full qualifying contributions records.
[2] Man or woman under 80 on own insurance. 0.25 addition for over 80-year-olds.
[3] This is the rate where the wife's state pension is based on the husband's contributions. Where it is based on her own contributions, the state pension will be twice that of a single pensioner if both individuals are entitled to 100 per cent. state pensions. 0.25 addition for over 80-year-olds.
[4] For all pension ages. Excludes all premiums other than pensioner premium.
[5] Long term IB rate for a single person aged 16+.
[6] The rates quoted are standard rates. There are also additional payments for dependent child(ren), disability, caring responsibilities, etc.

Note:
JSA rates are the same as those for income support.

Tax Allowances: Housing

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* England claim tax relief under the furnished holiday letting rules; and what the amount claimed was in each of the last two years; [272080]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the repeal of the furnished holiday letting rules from April 2010 on those claiming tax relief under those rules. [272091]

Ian Pearson: We estimate that the amount claimed under the Furnished Holiday Lettings rules in 2006-07, the last full year for which information is available, was £15 million.

In 2006-07 15,000 individuals offset losses from furnished holiday lettings in the UK against income from other sources and capital gains with an average tax benefit of £1,000 per annum.

HM Revenue and Customs do not have information on the location of furnished holiday lettings within the UK.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue which has accrued to the Exchequer directly attributable to the introduction of IR35 measures. [271195]

Angela Eagle: The revenue resulting from the intermediaries legislation (also known as IR35) arises from a number of elements: voluntary compliance with the legislation; the deterrent effect where those who might otherwise disguise employment income through incorporation decide not to; and HMRC compliance activity.

HMRC do not routinely collect data in respect of specific types of employers from PAYE returns and it is not possible to measure the deterrent effects. It is therefore not possible to estimate the total revenue accrued to the Exchequer as a result of this legislation.

Tax Havens

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual increase in revenue to the Exchequer which would otherwise have been forgone in tax avoidance as a result of the implementation in the UK of the G20 agreement on tax havens. [271598]

Mr. Timms: The actions agreed at the G20 London summit were focused on addressing tax evasion by increasing the exchange of information between tax authorities. Once the tax information exchange agreements called for by the G20 are in operation, HMRC will be better able to assess tax liability of UK residents who have income arising offshore. No such estimate has been made so far.

Taxation: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of housing sector receipts as a percentage of *(a)* total taxation receipts and *(b)* gross domestic product in each of the next three years. [271559]

Ian Pearson: Box C3 in Budget 2009 provides details of housing and financial sector receipts. Taxes such as capital gains tax and inheritance tax will reflect both housing and financial sector assets. Stamp duty will reflect shares, housing and commercial property.

Table 2.9 in Budget 2009: the economy and public finances—supplementary material provides projections for stamp duty, inheritance tax, capital gains tax up to 2013-14 and total receipts. This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf

Table C1 in the Budget provides projections of money GDP up to 2013-14. This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions he made on *(a)* house prices and *(b)* numbers of new build (i) starts and (ii) completions in reaching the estimates on housing sector receipts in each of the next three years set out in the Budget 2009 Red Book. [271561]

Angela Eagle: Receipts related to the housing market are determined primarily by the levels of property transactions and prices. The assumptions for both are set out in paragraphs B77 and C52 in the Budget document. For the purposes of the fiscal forecasts house prices are assured to move in line with the average of independent forecasts.

Taxation: Second Homes

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the cost to UK residents with property holdings in the European Economic Area outside the UK of the extension of the furnished holiday lettings rule to such properties. [272315]

Ian Pearson: It was announced at the Budget that the furnished holiday letting (FHL) rules would be repealed with effect from 6 April 2010. Until the repeal takes effect the FHL rules will be regarded as extending to those with qualifying FHLs elsewhere in the European Economic Area.

There will be no tax cost to UK residents with property holdings in the European Economic Area outside the UK from the extension of the furnished holiday lettings rules to such properties.

Welfare Tax Credits: Short-Time Working

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of workers on short-time working who are eligible for tax credits. [272498]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

JUSTICE

Departmental Costs

9. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the recession on the costs of running his Department's estate. [272271]

Maria Eagle: The cost of running the Department's estate is regularly reviewed to ensure we achieve excellent Value for Money. Changes to these costs are not attributable to the recession alone and are linked to prevailing economic conditions at the point when leases are reviewed.

Land Registration Fees

10. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consultation he has undertaken with the property, retail and business sectors on the increase in land registration fees to take effect on 6 July 2009. [272272]

Mr. Wills: The Order implementing the change in the fees structure was made following consultation with the Land Registration Rules Committee, which includes representatives of property groups and the Business User and Small Firms Business Groups.

Prisoners: Literacy Skills

11. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to provide literacy skills to functionally illiterate prisoners. [272273]

Mr. Hanson: Developing literacy and numeracy of prisoners is a key part of the Government's strategy to reduce reoffending. We have implemented the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service which in the academic year 2007/08 saw prisoners, assessed as having a literacy need, enrol on to a total of 50,936 accredited literacy courses.

Legal Aid

12. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on levels of public expenditure on legal aid. [272274]

Mr. Malik: We are closely monitoring trends in legal aid expenditure. We are taking action to help people affected by the recession. An extra £13 million has been made available to help 70,000 more people with debt and housing problems, and the Housing Possession Court Duty scheme is helping more than 2,800 people each month. The civil eligibility limit has been raised by 5 per cent. from the start of the financial year. These measures have been funded from existing resources.

Prison Population

13. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the size of the prison population; and what percentage of that population is comprised of foreign nationals. [272275]

Mr. Hanson: On 1 May 2009 the prison population was 82,868. The foreign national prisoner population equates to just under 14 per cent. of the total population.

Independently produced data suggest that at 14 per cent. England and Wales has significantly fewer foreign nationals in prison than the rest of Europe.

Legal Services

14. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in establishing alternative business structures for the provision of legal services. [272276]

Bridget Prentice: Legal disciplinary practices, the first step towards full alternative business structures (ABS), have been permitted since 31 March. The Legal Services Board (LSB) will be consulting on ABS later this month, and is keen for the first ABS licences to be issued in 2011. We are working with the LSB to support this timetable.

Prisons: Market Testing

15. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the deadline is for the submission of bids for the market testing of prisons in Wellingborough and Birmingham; and when he expects decisions on those bids to be announced. [272277]

Mr. Hanson: It is expected that the deadline for the submission of bids for the market testing of prisons in Wellingborough and Birmingham will be November

2009 with award notices for both prisons expected to be issued in February 2010. Bids will be considered from public, private and third sector providers.

Family Courts

16. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable has been set for implementation of his proposals for greater transparency in the family courts; and if he will make a statement. [272278]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 38WS.

Human Trafficking Offences

17. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sentencing guidance his Department provides to judges who preside over human trafficking cases. [272279]

Maria Eagle: It is the responsibility of the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council to issue sentencing guidelines for criminal offences. In May 2007, the SGC issued a guideline on trafficking into the UK for purposes of sexual exploitation and will consider developing guidelines for people trafficking more generally. The Government's aim are to make the UK a hostile environment for trafficking and protect victims and potential victims from this abhorrent crime.

Electoral Administration

18. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of standards of electoral administration in the UK, with particular reference to postal voting. [272280]

20. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of electoral administration in the UK. [272282]

Mr. Wills: The Electoral Commission published its performance standards for returning officers on 16 March 2009. The standards cover all aspects of the work of ROs, including the processes they have in place to identify and deal with any instances of electoral malpractice. The Commission will publish details of ROs performance across the whole of Great Britain in autumn of 2009.

25. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an estimate of the number of people unable to vote on a Thursday as a result of their work or child care commitments. [272287]

Mr. Wills: The Government have consulted on whether voting could be made more convenient by changing the timing of Election Day. On one hand, for those balancing family and child care commitments with working full or part-time, Thursday may not be a convenient day for voting. However, other groups, including religious groups, might have concerns about voting on a Saturday or Sunday.

This consultation has now closed and the Government are currently working on a detailed analysis of the responses. We will publish this analysis and set out the findings of the consultation in due course.

Electoral Fraud

19. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government are taking to reduce levels of electoral fraud. [272281]

Mr. Wills: The Government have taken significant steps to enhance the security of the electoral process including the measures introduced in the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Recent information published by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Electoral Commission on 1 May allows us, for the first time, to examine the extent and nature of allegations of electoral malpractice. It is consistent with earlier findings that the scale and volume of allegations of fraud have been decreasing. Of the 60 voting and registration alleged offences recorded at the 2008 elections, no further action was taken in the significant majority of these cases. This must be seen in the context of the 16 million votes which were cast at the May 2008 elections—but fraud is still unacceptable.

We cannot be complacent about electoral fraud but these figures demonstrate that the measures which we and others, including the police, the Electoral Commission and electoral administrators, have already taken have been successful.

We are now legislating for the introduction of individual registration in a way that will help to further curb the risk of fraud, while ensuring that changes also support improvements to the comprehensiveness and accuracy of electoral registers.

Prison Capacity

21. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure adequate capacity in the prison system. [272283]

Mr. Hanson: Prison is the right place for the most dangerous, serious and persistent offenders. We are committed to making sure we have enough prison places to cater for those offenders who need to be imprisoned. Our current prison population projects suggest we should continue to plan for a capacity of 96,000 by 2014, and our capacity programme will therefore increase overall prison capacity to 96,000 places by 2014.

We have increased prison capacity by nearly 25,000 places (not all new build) since 1997. We have delivered, to date, over 4,600 places as part of the ongoing capacity programme and will deliver a further 1,600 additional places in 2009.

HM Prison Ashwell

22. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the recent disturbances at HM Prison Ashwell. [272284]

Mr. Hanson: We have received representations from the Prison Officers' Association and from the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan). Police and prison investigations are under way. The incident resulted in significant damage to the establishment. As I made clear in my written ministerial statement of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 2WS, and the Justice Secretary in his oral statement on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 569, we pay tribute to the staff of the Prison Service and other emergency services for bringing the incident to a conclusion.

Prisoners: Learning Difficulties

24. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to identify prisoners with learning difficulties. [272286]

Mr. Hanson: The Learning and Skills Council has commissioned Dyslexia Action to develop a questionnaire for use with offenders which highlights features of a broad range of "hidden" disabilities, including dyslexia, dyspraxia and attention deficit disorder. Education providers will shortly be trained in its use and be expected to assess all learners who are referred to them from August 2009.

Departmental Expenditure

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which of his Department's programmes will be subject to reductions in their planned budgets between 2009 and 2011. [272285]

Maria Eagle: Allocations to business groups are currently being finalised for 2010-11, to reflect the additional £70 million efficiency savings announced in the Budget, but 2009-10 allocations are set out in the corporate plan.

Civil Service: Reform

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the planned parliamentary timetable is for the passage of a Civil Service Bill. [271974]

Mr. Wills: The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contained provisions in respect of the civil service. The Government are finalising the clauses of the Constitutional Renewal Bill in response to consultation and parliamentary scrutiny, and intend to introduce the Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many house sales have been recorded by the Land Registry in each region in each month since January 1990; [272101]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 969W, on housing: sales, how many sales there were in each local authority area in each month since January 1990. [272106]

Mr. Wills: A breakdown of the figures requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Land Registry's Residential Price Report and House Price Index provide further information from 1995. These are available on Land Registry's website

www.landregistry.gov.uk

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 969W, on housing: sales, what the earliest *(a)* monthly and *(b)* annual data on numbers of sales are that the Land Registry has on record; and if he will place in the Library a copy of those data. [272107]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry's earliest recorded data for residential sales in England and Wales dates from *(a)* January 1995 and *(b)* 1995. These figures are 50,675 and 800,494 respectively. Land Registry's Residential Property Price Reports and House Price Index provide these data from 1995. The information is available on the Land Registry website at;

http://www1.landregistry.gov.uk/property_info/

http://www1.landregistry.gov.uk/houseprices/

Offences against Children: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for offences relating to child abuse there were in each London borough between 1998 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [271043]

Maria Eagle: There is no specific offence of 'child abuse'. Furthermore, the term 'child abuse' describes harm caused to a child arising from emotional, physical and sexual abuse or neglect caused by a parent or carer.

The statistics provided in the following table are for those offences currently identified as such, including causing or allowing the death of a child, sexual assaults against under 16s, and cruelty or neglect of a child. Not included are other forms of abuse for which there is no separate legal category, offences where the victim cannot be identified as a child from the type of offence, and cases of abuse which cannot be identified because they were proceeded against under more general offences such as physical assault.

It is not possible to further break down information held to individual London boroughs, thus data for both Metropolitan and City of London police force areas have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to child abuse in Metropolitan and the City of London police force area, 1998 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

Statute	Offence description	Proceeded against									
		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S 5	Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 Sec 1.	Cruelty or neglect of children	84	95	91	81	120	140	106	106	85	68
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 27	Abandoning children under two years.	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Rape of a female aged under 16.	67	74	103	130	204	254	170	148	123	97
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Rape of a male aged under 16.	1	3	4	7	10	8	5	8	8	4
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	Rape of a female child under 13 by a male	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	29	28	32
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	14	10
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7	Sexual assault of a female child under 13	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	58	51	70
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.8(1)(2)(3), S.10(1a,b,c)(3), S.9(1a,b,c)(2), S.9(1a,b,c)(3), S 10(1,a,b,c(i))(2), S 10(1,a,b,c(i))(3),	Sexual activity involving a child	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	24	31	32
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S16(1ei,2-5), S16(1eii,2-5), S17(1ei,2-5), S18(1fi,2-5), S19(1ei,2-5), S17(1eii,2-5)	Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with children	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	3
Total		152	173	198	220	334	402	316	380	342	317

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S 5 came into force on 21 March 2005.
[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.
Source:
OCJR – E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform – Evidence and Analysis Unit
Our ref: PQ 271043 (Table)

Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission the Social Exclusion Unit to review its work on the prison population and the cost of reoffending. [268819]

Mr. Straw: Since the publication of the Social Exclusion Unit's report "Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners" in 2002 we have had significant success in reducing the reoffending by offenders released from custody. Between 2000 and 2006 there was a 22.9 per cent. fall in the frequency rate from 189.4 to 146.1 offences per 100 offenders. Additionally the rate of serious re-offending decreased by 11.1 per cent. over the same period.

The Government's social exclusion agenda is now led by the Social Exclusion Task Force (SETF), which has a strategic role in delivering better working across Departments on social exclusion issues. This includes the Socially Excluded Adults Public Service Agreement (PSA), which aims to increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in employment and accommodation. The Ministry of Justice is working closely with the SETF and other delivery departments to take forward this PSA and to tackle other factors linked to reducing reoffending. With this aim in mind a Reducing Reoffending Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) chaired by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Hanson) and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. Simon), and including Ministers from 13 Government Departments, is responsible for ensuring the alignment of departmental targets and PSAs to support crime reduction and the reduction of reoffending, and ensure delivery of agreed cross government plans.

Work is also in hand to collect data associated with the costs of reoffending. The Ministry of Justice is currently developing a segmentation approach better to understand different offender groups, including their behaviour and criminal careers. This will include an assessment of which offenders are likely to cost society the most through their reoffending, and therefore where there are likely to be higher benefits to the public

through reducing further reoffending. Additionally, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is undertaking a Specification, Benchmarking and Costing Programme, which aims to create a robust framework of costed service specifications thereby exposing choices for the business about what services should be delivered, to which offenders, at what level of quality. Both of these work-streams will help us to understand how to best target resources and intervene more effectively in the future to minimise the cost of reoffending.

Prisoners Release: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effectiveness of electronic tagging of *(a)* young offenders aged between (i) 10 and 15 and (ii) 12 and 16 years old, *(b)* prisoners released on end of custody licence and (c) those on bail resident in (A) Essex and (B) Castle Point. [272559]

Mr. Hanson: No research on the effectiveness of tagging in Essex, or Castle Point in particular, has been carried out or is planned. The current research programme within the Ministry of Justice includes further research on the effectiveness of a wide range of interventions aimed at reducing re-offending including a feasibility study into reoffending by prisoners released on home detention curfew but not on electronic monitoring in general.

Current evidence suggests that electronic monitoring has a neutral effect on re-offending. However, international research does suggest that it can be effective in helping to ensure compliance with other, more rehabilitative, community penalties.

Electronic monitoring provides the courts with a credible alternative to custody. Curfews introduce regularity into what are often chaotic lifestyles, and enhance supervision and can disrupt the pattern of offending behaviour. A Joint Criminal Justice Inspectorates Report on the effectiveness of electronically monitored curfews was published in October 2008, and its recommendations are being considered by the Ministry of Justice.

Prisoners released on an end of custody licence are not subject to a curfew condition.

Prisons: Basford

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what size of prison was considered for the Basford East and West site; [272180]

(2) what categories of prison have been considered for the Basford East and West site; [272181]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the local community in Basford East and West as a result of building a prison in that area; [272182]

(4) whether his Department has decided against Basford East and West as a potential site for a prison building; [272183]

(5) what parties local to Basford East and West he has consulted on prison building; [272184]

(6) what assessment he has made of Basford *(a)* East and *(b)* West as a potential site for a prison building; [272163]

(7) what estimate he has made of the cost of building a prison on the Basford *(a)* East and *(b)* West site was. [272164]

Mr. Straw: As I announced on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-80, we will not be proceeding with the 2,500 place "Titan" prisons, but we will be building 1,500 place prisons instead.

The site at Basford East and, West was one of a number of sites brought to the attention of the National Offender Management Service as part of the site search exercise for "Titan" prisons to hold 2,500 prisoners. It was assessed, but not considered suitable for development as a Titan and no estimates of costs were made. There are no current plans for prisons on any of the sites listed other than those named by me in Parliament on 27 April.

Prisons: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions have taken place on *(a)* extending existing prison capacity and *(b)* providing new prison facilities in Essex; and if he will make a statement. [272058]

Mr. Straw: As I announced on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-80, we will not be proceeding with the 2,500 place "Titan" prisons, but we will be building 1,500 place prisons instead.

I explained then that we were working to secure sites for the first two of these prisons, including one at Runwell in Wickford, Essex. We commenced negotiations with the owners of the site, the Homes and Communities Agency following my announcement and wrote to Chelmsford borough council on 27 April 2009 to inform them that we intend to start negotiations to buy this site.

The other site is Beam Park West in Dagenham in the London borough of Barking and Dagenham and is on land that was formerly part of the Ford motor car company. There are no plans for extending existing prison sites in Essex.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mobile telephones were seized in each prison in England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available. [260436]

Mr. Hanson: Prisons are asked to send mobile phones and SIM cards they find to a central unit for analysis. The numbers analysed are set out in the following table for each of the last three years. There are no figures available for the years prior to 2006, because this information was not collated centrally.

The figures include items discovered within the prison perimeter and on entry to establishments. However, we believe that these figures may understate the actual number of finds, because they do not include items retained by the police for evidential purposes, and because in some instances prisons have not sent items for analysis. NOMS is putting in place new procedures to ensure that we have a more comprehensive picture in future. While the numbers of phones found indicates the scale

of the challenge in tackling illicit mobile phones, it is also a reflection of prisons' increasing success in finding them and better reporting.

NOMS is implementing a strategy to minimise the number of phones entering prisons, and to find or disrupt those that do enter. As part of the strategy, prisons are being provided with technologies to strengthen local security and searching strategies, in line with the recommendations in the Blakey report, Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons, published in July 2008. This includes the roll out of "BOSS" chairs to all prisons, and the deployment of other detection and disruption technologies, including mobile phone signal blockers.

We have also strengthened the law, through the Offender Management Act 2007 (implemented in April 2008), which makes it a criminal offence with a punishment of up to two years' imprisonment to bring an unauthorised mobile phone or component part into a prison.

Establishment		Mobile phones/SIM cards 2006	2007	2008
Acklington	C	0	0	18
Albany	B	0	0	2
Altcourse	Local	0	0	190
Ashfield	Juvenile/YOI/Remand	0	0	0
Ashwell	C	9	3	48
Askham Grange	Female open	0	0	0
Aylesbury	YOI	17	22	146
Bedford	Local	31	23	8
Belmarsh	A/Local	94	65	75
Birmingham	Local	26	17	307
Blakenhurst (became part of Hewell in 2008)	Local	27	100	—
Blantyre House	C	1	2	4
Blundeston	C	52	47	71
Bramford	Juvenile/YOI/Remand	11	32	90
Bristol	Local	28	46	35
Brixton	B/Local	0	83	425
Brockhill (became part of Hewell in 2008)	C	2	7	—
Bronzefield	Female	0	0	12
Buckley Hall	C	9	41	61
Bullingdon	Local/Remand	27	25	54
Bullwood Hall	C	3	0	9
Camp Hill	C	0	10	27
Canterbury	C	20	10	19
Cardiff	Local	14	29	42
Castington	Juvenile/YOI/Remand	0	1	3
Channings Wood	C	2	58	121
Chelmsford	B	20	5	37
Coldingley	C	9	17	22
Cookham Wood	Juvenile (re-roled from female prison during 2907-08)	0	12	0
Dartmoor	B	19	40	81
Deerbolt	YOI	0	6	24
Doncaster	Local	15	93	10
Dorchester	Local	30	9	14
Dovegate	B	49	33	35
Downview	Female	2	9	11
Drake Hall	Female	3	0	6
Durham	Local	7	22	18
East Sutton Park	Female open	0	9	11
Eastwood Park	Female	3	7	10
Edmunds Hill	C	2	60	41
Elmley	Local	23	33	103
Erlestoke	C	37	74	47
Everthorpe	C	11	1	127
Exeter	Local	10	16	79
Featherstone	C	14	14	40
Feltham	YOI/Remand	0	0	95
Ford	D	26	25	22
Forest Bank	Local	57	65	5
Foston Hall	Female	0	0	0
Frankland	A	18	29	41
Full Sutton	A	33	22	42
Garth	B	54	24	87
Gartree	Lifer	10	25	32
Glen Parva	YOI/Remand	4	28	56
Gloucester	Local	5	33	26
Grendon/Spring Hill	B/D	70	42	56
Guys Marsh	C (also held young offenders until 2008)	56	15	9
Haverigg	C	26	26	18
Hewell	Local/C/D	—	—	387
Hewell Grange (became part of Hewell in 2008)	D	5	56	
High Down	Local/ Remand	14	9	177
Highpoint	C	81	231	339
Hindley	YOI/Juvenile/Remand	1	34	163
Hollesley Bay	D/YOI	4	79	116
Holloway	Female	0	0	16
Holme House	Local	3	22	53
Hull	Local	19	66	22
Huntercombe	Juvenile/YOI	0	1	16
Kennet	C (opened from mid-2007)	0	6	43
Kingston/ Portsmouth	Lifer	12	9	9
Kirkham	D	12	122	12
Kirklevington	C	6	24	78
Lancaster Castle	C	16	5	0
Lancaster Farms	YOI/Remand	0	18	20
Latchmere House	C	0	0	30
Leeds	Local	52	48	84
Leicester	Local	12	38	65
Lewes	Local	45	40	2
Leyhill	D	12	43	30
Lincoln	Local	30	29	56
Lindholme	C	7	12	17
Littlehey	C	4	11	37
Liverpool	Local	56	59	118
Long Lartin	A	71	96	66
Lowdham Grange	B	1	2	32
Low Newton	Female	1	4	3
Maidstone	C	32	25	72
Manchester	A/Local	62	75	112
Moorland Closed	C	17	19	86
Moorland Open	C/D/YOI	0	28	9
Morton Hall	Female	14	1	11
The Mount	C	87	47	23
New Hall	Female	4	1	1
Northallerton	YOI	1	13	6
North Sea Camp	D	48	58	96
Norwich	Local/YOI/D	11	35	70
Nottingham	Local	21	48	40

Establishment		Mobile phones/SIM cards 2006	2007	2008
Onley	C/YOI	6	23	24
Pare	Local/YOI	6	19	66
Parkhurst	B	38	24	21
Pentonville	Local	0	195	80
Peterborough	Local/Female	41	124	133
Portland	YOI	0	0	0
Preston	Local	0	32	181
Ranby	C	21	4	127
Reading	YOI/Remand	0	41	16
Risley	C	14	45	70
Rochester	YOI	2	6	13
Rye Hill	B	0	4	56
Send	Female	0	4	7
Shepton Mallet	Lifer	0	2	10
Shrewsbury	Local	7	0	10
Stafford	C	16	21	55
Standford Hill	D	15	28	9
Stocken	C	22	7	30
Stoke Heath	YOI/Remand	10	3	86
Styal	Female	8	6	13
Sudbury	D	11	1	38
Swaleside	B	32	123	145
Swansea	Local	4	3	43
Swinfen Hall	C/YOI	30	31	39
Thorn Cross	YOI	20	2	9
Usk/Prescoed	C/D	0	2	22
The Verne	C	3	9	87
Wakefield	A	2	2	4
Wandsworth	Local	0	31	398
Warren Hill	D/YOI/Juvenile	0	0	0
Wayland	C	23	51	27

Young Offenders: Education

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Advisory Steering Group for the proposed young offenders academy; [272684]

(2) whether he plans to undertake public consultation on the proposal for a young offenders academy before the pilot project is given approval to begin procurement; and if he will make a statement; [272685]

(3) what assessment he has made of the compatibility of proposals for a young offenders academy with the Government's policy to make custody for children a last resort. [272686]

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice, met with representatives of East Potential, the organisation proposing the academy, on 11 November 2008. Officials of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) have also met several times with East Potential representatives to consider the proposal.

The proposal is still at the development stage: it is too early to discuss the Government's possible response to a more fully developed plan or how such a proposal would be considered.

Any proposals regarding the use of custody for young people who offend would be considered in the light of the Government's overall approach to youth justice, including our clear statement that custody for young people under 18 should only be used as a last resort.

Youth Justice

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what factors he took into account in the decision to reduce the number of places contracted for custodial places in local authority secure children's homes; and if he will make a statement. [270775]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The secure children's homes contract decisions followed a joint tendering exercise by the Youth Justice Board and the Department for Children Schools and Families. New contracts were offered to nine homes following a detailed evaluation, consisting of an assessment of the quality of the bids received and a financial assessment, based on the submitted prices. The required number of beds in each region, value for money, and overall affordability were factors in the decision-making process.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether people attending confidential meetings at 10 Downing Street are required to enter through an entrance other than the main door. [271957]

Kevin Brennan: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

10 Downing Street: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) with reference to the Answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on departmental email, for how long the contact email form on the Downing Street website has been unavailable for public communication; and what effect this unavailability will have on his Department's progress towards its strategic objective 4 in respect of avoidable contact; [258669]

(2) on what date the Downing Street website stopped offering a contact form for members of the public to email the Prime Minister; [271971]

(3) how many emails from members of the public 10 Downing Street has received in the last three months. [271973]

Mr. Watson: Enhancements have been made to the No. 10 e-mail facility and an updated version is now available. This is in addition to the other ways in which members of the public can interact with the Prime Minister, including: ePetitions; Ask the PM on the Downing Street YouTube site; Twitter; and, written correspondence.

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1350W, on 10 Downing Street: repairs and maintenance, which contractors were employed to undertake the works carried out in August and September 2008. [271943]

Kevin Brennan: The procurement of facilities services across the Cabinet Office estate is provided by the total facilities management provider for the Cabinet Office.

Charities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Charity Commission's monitoring of links between charities and extremism; and if he will make a statement. [271955]

Kevin Brennan: The Charity Commission takes a zero tolerance approach to links between charities and terrorism, and last year published a revised counter-terrorism strategy. I have asked the Charity Commission to write to set out its approach to this issue.

Letter from Andrew Hind:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to write in connection with your written Parliamentary Question on what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Charity Commission's monitoring of links between charities and extremism. I thought it would be useful to set out our approach to this issue.

The Charity Commission has a specific monitoring unit to identify and monitor suspected and apparent abuse in charities, including fraud and financial abuse, risks to vulnerable beneficiaries and the risk of terrorist abuse. The Commission published its Counter-Terrorism Strategy in July 2008 which sets out the Commission's strategic approach to dealing with the vulnerability of the charity sector to terrorism, including criminal extremism. This document is publicly available on our website, www.charitycommission.gov.uk, and I will arrange for a copy of this to be placed in the Library of the House.

Our Compliance Monitoring Unit liaises closely with a variety of agencies. Matters of criminality are for the police to lead on. The Unit is also responsible for conducting compliance visits to charities to carry out on-site inspections and proactively look into matters of concern. As of 31 March 2009 it had 236 proactive monitoring cases open and since the beginning of 2008 it had conducted 15 visits covering the full range of issues and concerns, some of which related to matters of possible criminality and extremism.

I hope this is helpful.

Charities: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to his Department's press release of 8 April 2009, on campaigning charities, what restrictions will govern the use of the available funds for *(a)* political campaigning and *(b)* the promotion of political campaigns by charities. [271942]

Kevin Brennan: The Government want to promote the development of strong active and empowered communities. Organisations that represent the voices of their community and campaign for change are central to this. This role is particularly important in respect of groups that currently feel disadvantaged in decision-making processes.

All third sector organisations that participate in the innovative campaigning programme must adhere to the Charity Commission guidance on campaigning which can be found at

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc9.asp.

This guidance makes it clear that charities can engage in political campaigning in furtherance of their charitable objectives, but can not engage in party political campaigning.

Childbirth

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many babies *(a)* had a low birth weight and *(b)* were stillborn in each (i) ward and (ii) low layer super output area in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [271807]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many babies (a) had a low birthweight and (b) were stillborn in each (i) ward and (ii) low layer super output area in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. (271807)

Information on low birthweight babies and stillbirths is not routinely published for wards and lower layer super output areas, in order to protect the privacy of individual mothers and babies.

Death Certificates

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many death certificates mentioning (1) thrombosis have been issued in each of the last five years; [271404]

(2) arteriosclerosis have been issued in each of the last five years; [271405]

(3) gout have been issued in each of the last five years; [271406]

(4) prostate cancer have been issued in each of the last five years; [271407]

(5) osteoarthritis have been issued in each of the last five years; [271408]

(6) sleep apnoea have been issued in each of the last five years; [271409]

(7) *(a)* type 1 diabetes and *(b)* type 2 diabetes have been issued in each of the last five years; [271410]

(8) high blood pressure have been issued in each of the last five years. [271411]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

(1) How many death certificates mentioning thrombosis have been issued in each of the last five years. (271404)

(2) How many death certificates mentioning arteriosclerosis have been issued in each of the last five years. (271405)

(3) How many death certificates mentioning gout have been issued in each of the last five years. (271406)

(4) How many death certificates mentioning prostate cancer have been issued in each of the last five years. (271407)

(5) How many death certificates mentioning osteoarthritis have been issued in each of the last five years. (271408)

(6) How many death certificates mentioning sleep apnoea have been issued in each of the last five years. (271409)

(7) How many death certificates mentioning (a) Type 1 diabetes and (b) Type 2 diabetes have been issued in each of the last five years. (271410)

(8) How many death certificates mentioning high blood pressure have been issued in each of the last five years. (271411)

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death. Whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement.

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes recorded indicate whether any of the following conditions were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, in England and Wales, for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

(1) Thrombosis

(a) Myocardial infarction and coronary thrombosis

(b) Thrombotic Strokes

(c) Pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis

(d) Arterial embolism and thrombosis

(2) Arteriosclerosis

(a) Strokes specifying embolism, thrombosis or and narrowing or occlusion of arteries

(b) Other and unspecified strokes

(c) Ischaemic heart diseases

(d) Atherosclerosis

(3) Gout

(4) Prostate cancer

(5) Arthrosis (osteoarthritis)

(6) Sleep apnoea

(7) Diabetes

(a) Type I diabetes

(b) Type II diabetes

(c) Unspecified diabetes

8) Hypertensive diseases

It is not possible from death certificate data to separate thrombotic, embolic and atherosclerotic conditions affecting the arteries to the brain. Atherosclerosis of arteries in the neck and inside the skull can lead to strokes through thrombosis, embolism or sometimes haemorrhage. The table therefore includes a single category of deaths with mention of one or more ICD codes in the range that includes thrombotic, embolic and atherosclerotic cerebrovascular diseases. Pulmonary embolism and venous thrombosis have been combined, because when one is part of the sequence leading to death, the other nearly always is as well, whether it is mentioned on the certificate or not.

Arteriosclerosis can affect any artery in the body, including those supplying the brain, the heart and all other vital organs. Whether the term used is arteriosclerosis, coronary or ischaemic heart disease, the medical condition is virtually the same - lack of oxygenated blood (ischaemia) to the heart muscle because of atherosclerosis (narrowing and stiffening) of the coronary arteries. This clinical category is represented by the ICD-10 code range 120-125. The whole range has been used to count deaths with any mention of atherosclerotic/ischaemic/coronary heart disease in the attached table.

Type I and Type II diabetes are distinct clinical entities, which are easily identified and tabulated from death certificates using ICD codes. However, the type of diabetes is not always accurately recorded on the death certificate. Therefore, ICD codes have been used to tabulate death certificate mentions of diabetes specified as Type I or Type II, and also those where the type has not been specified.

When interpreting the data in these tables, it is important to be aware that many deaths will have more than one of the requested conditions mentioned. Thrombosis of the coronary arteries in the heart is one of the steps in a heart attack; thrombosis of cerebral arteries may cause a stroke. In both these cases, atherosclerotic narrowing of the arteries will usually have led to the thrombosis. Therefore, many deaths will be represented in more than one of the causes listed.

Table 1. Deaths where certain named causes were mentioned on the death certificate[1], England and Wales[2], 2003 to 2007[1]

Deaths (persons)

Cause of death		*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Thrombosis	Myocardial infarction and coronary thrombosis	48,569	44,283	41,446	38,159	36,152
	Thrombotic strokes	598	505	457	385	301
	Pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis	18,496	17,016	16,720	17,188	16,670
	Arterial embolism and thrombosis	532	517	518	517	501
Arteriosclerosis	Strokes specifying embolism, thrombosis or and narrowing or occlusion of arteries	8,182	7,440	7,240	7,002	6,628
	Other and unspecified strokes	63,198	58,468	56,530	54,560	53,081
	Ischaemic heart diseases	133,350	126,161	122,837	117,475	115,586
	Atherosclerosis	7,649	6,944	6,471	6,238	5,874
Gout		140	132	153	119	112
Prostate cancer		12,397	12,425	12,296	12,474	12,860
Arthrosis (osteoarthritis)		1,079	996	930	958	1,013
Sleep apnoea		111	116	152	142	167
Diabetes	Type I	1,496	1,314	1,193	1,193	1,184
	Type II	6,180	6,424	7,090	7,949	9,954
	Unspecified	19,466	19,018	19,765	19,730	19,368

Table 1. Deaths where certain named causes were mentioned on the death certificate[1], England and Wales[2], 2003 to 2007[3]

Deaths (persons)

Cause of death	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Hypertensive diseases	26,098	26,692	28,837	30,796	33,054

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised in Table 1, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following box. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1, Causes of death codes used – International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death		ICD-10 code(s)
Thrombosis	Myocardial infarction and coronary thrombosis	I21-I24.0
	Thrombotic strokes	I63.0, I63.3, I63.6, I65-I66
	Pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis	I80.1-I80.3, I80.9, I82.9, I26.0, I26.9
	Arterial embolism and thrombosis	I74
Arteriosclerosis	Strokes specifying embolism, thrombosis or and narrowing or occlusion of arteries	I63, I65-I66
	Other and unspecified strokes	I64, I67-I69
	Ischaemic heart diseases	I20-I25
	Atherosclerosis	I70
Gout		M10
Prostate cancer		C61
Arthrosis (osteoarthritis)		M15-M19
Sleep apnoea		G47.3
Diabetes	Type I	E10
	Type II	E11
	Unspecified	E14
Hypertensive diseases		I10-I15

Death: Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many hospital deaths were caused by malnutrition among those in each age group over 65 years in each region in the last 10 years. [272547]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many hospital deaths were caused by malnutrition among those in each age group over 65 years in each region in the last 10 years. (272547)

Malnutrition may be recorded as the underlying cause of death, but this is a rare occurrence. The 'effects of hunger', as the effects of malnutrition may be reported on a death certificate, is never recorded as the underlying cause of death, because it is defined by the International Classification of Diseases as a 'secondary cause' only. Consequently, deaths with any mention of either of these causes on the death certificate are reported together.

The attached tables provide the numbers of deaths in hospital where (a) malnutrition was the underlying cause of death (Table 1), and (b) malnutrition or 'effects of hunger' was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate (Table 2), for persons in each age group over 65 years, resident in each government office region in England, for the years 1998 to 2007 (the latest year available). Table 2 will include deaths where malnutrition was a complication of the underlying cause (for example cancer of the stomach) in addition to deaths where it was reported as the underlying cause.

The term 'hospital' includes NHS, non-NHS and military hospitals. It is not possible to determine from these figures how or where the malnutrition or 'effects of hunger' occurred.

Table 1. Deaths in hospitals[1] where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death,[2] persons in each age group over 65 years resident in government office regions in England,[3] 1998-2007[4]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	Year	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	Over 85
North East	1998	1	0	0	1	0
	1999	0	0	1	1	0
	2000	0	0	0	0	1
	2001	0	0	1	0	2
	2002	0	1	0	0	0
	2003	0	0	0	0	5
	2004	0	0	1	0	0
	2005	0	0	1	0	0

Table 1. Deaths in hospitals[1] where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death,[2] persons in each age group over 65 years resident in government office regions in England,[3] 1998–2007[4]

Government office region	Year	Deaths (persons) 66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	Over 85
	2006	0	1	1	1	1
	2007	0	0	0	1	1
North West	1998	0	0	1	0	3
	1999	1	0	2	0	0
	2000	0	0	0	0	2
	2001	0	0	1	3	3
	2002	1	0	3	1	2
	2003	1	1	0	0	2
	2004	2	0	0	1	3
	2005	0	0	1	2	0
	2006	0	0	1	1	0
	2007	0	0	1	0	2
Yorkshire and The Humber	1998	0	0	0	0	0
	1999	1	0	0	0	0
	2000	0	0	0	2	1
	2001	0	1	0	0	0
	2002	1	0	0	0	1
	2003	0	1	1	1	2
	2004	0	0	1	0	2
	2005	0	0	0	0	1
	2006	1	1	0	0	2
	2007	1	1	1	1	0
East Midlands	1998	0	0	0	1	0
	1999	0	0	0	1	1
	2000	0	0	0	1	1
	2001	0	1	0	0	2
	2002	0	2	0	1	1
	2003	0	0	0	0	1
	2004	0	0	0	0	0
	2005	0	0	1	0	0
	2006	0	0	1	1	2
	2007	1	1	1	2	0
West Midlands	1998	0	2	0	0	1
	1999	0	0	0	1	3
	2000	1	0	2	1	2
	2001	0	0	1	0	2
	2002	0	2	1	3	1
	2003	0	0	0	3	2
	2004	0	1	1	0	0
	2005	1	0	0	2	0
	2006	0	2	1	1	2
	2007	0	1	0	1	4
East of England	1998	0	0	0	0	1
	1999	1	1	0	0	3
	2000	0	0	0	0	1
	2001	0	1	3	1	1
	2002	0	0	0	1	0
	2003	0	0	0	2	1

Table 1: Deaths in hospitals[1] where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death,[2] persons in each age group over 65 years resident in government office regions in England,[3] 1998–2007[4]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	Year	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	Over 85
	2004	0	0	0	0	3
	2005	0	1	1	1	6
	2006	2	1	0	0	2
	2007	0	0	0	0	2
London	1998	1	0	0	0	0
	1999	0	0	0	1	1
	2000	0	0	0	0	1
	2001	0	0	1	0	3
	2002	0	0	1	2	2
	2003	1	0	0	1	2
	2004	0	0	1	1	0
	2005	0	0	0	0	1
	2006	1	0	0	1	2
	2007	0	0	0	1	1
South East	1998	0	0	0	1	0
	1999	1	2	0	0	2
	2000	1	0	3	1	2
	2001	1	0	2	1	0
	2002	0	1	0	2	4
	2003	1	0	0	1	2
	2004	1	1	0	0	1
	2005	1	1	1	1	5
	2006	1	0	1	3	2
	2007	0	1	1	2	1
South West	1998	0	0	4	0	1
	1999	2	0	1	0	0
	2000	0	0	2	1	1
	2001	0	0	0	0	1
	2002	0	0	2	1	2
	2003	0	0	0	0	0
	2004	1	0	0	2	3
	2005	0	0	3	0	1
	2006	0	1	1	1	2
	2007	0	1	2	0	1

[1] 'Hospital' includes NHS and non-NHS hospitals or establishments sites, and military hospitals.
[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) for the years 1998 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) for 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[4] 0 figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Deaths in hospitals[1] where malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate,[2] persons in each age group over 65 years resident in government office regions in England,[3] 1998–2007[4]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	Year	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	Over 85
North East	1998	2	1	0	2	4
	1999	1	2	2	3	3
	2000	2	5	0	5	2
	2001	1	2	5	1	7
	2002	1	2	5	1	5
	2003	1	1	1	4	5
	2004	2	0	2	2	1
	2005	1	1	2	1	1

Table 2: Deaths in hospitals[1] where malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate,[2] persons in each age group over 65 years resident in government office regions in England,[3] 1998-2007[4]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	Year	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	Over 85
	2006	1	4	2	6	6
	2007	2	0	3	3	2
North West	1998	4	1	2	6	9
	1999	6	5	3	4	3
	2000	2	4	2	1	4
	2001	1	0	5	6	5
	2002	2	3	3	6	5
	2003	3	5	3	2	5
	2004	3	3	9	6	5
	2005	0	7	4	6	0
	2006	2	0	3	4	5
	2007	2	1	9	4	7
Yorkshire and The Humber	1998	1	1	3	4	3
	1999	3	2	1	5	2
	2000	0	2	2	2	6
	2001	1	3	2	3	3
	2002	2	4	2	0	4
	2003	1	2	4	6	7
	2004	3	1	4	0	4
	2005	1	2	1	2	4
	2006	2	2	1	2	4
	2007	2	1	5	3	2
East Midlands	1998	1	1	5	5	2
	1999	2	1	1	3	2
	2000	2	1	3	3	4
	2001	1	4	1	2	3
	2002	1	2	2	5	1
	2003	1	1	3	0	6
	2004	1	1	1	3	3
	2005	2	3	3	4	4
	2006	0	1	5	4	5
	2007	1	2	1	3	5
West Midlands	1998	3	7	3	3	5
	1999	1	4	5	10	12
	2000	6	4	11	3	8
	2001	1	2	3	2	4
	2002	3	4	4	10	10
	2003	2	4	2	7	6
	2004	1	5	11	6	8
	2005	3	2	1	6	3
	2006	1	9	5	4	4
	2007	2	3	7	6	6
East of England	1998	3	2	2	3	3
	1999	3	5	1	5	7
	2000	2	1	9	3	8
	2001	1	3	9	4	4
	2002	1	4	3	8	5

Table 2: Deaths in hospitals[1] where malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate,[2] persons in each age group over 65 years resident in government office regions in England,[3] 1998-2007[4]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	Year	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	Over 85
	2003	0	2	1	5	2
	2004	3	1	2	2	4
	2005	0	3	3	7	14
	2006	4	5	2	0	6
	2007	1	0	2	3	3
London	1998	1	6	6	4	2
	1999	3	1	4	5	6
	2000	2	1	4	3	7
	2001	0	0	8	3	4
	2002	2	0	7	4	4
	2003	3	1	1	2	4
	2004	2	2	1	2	1
	2005	1	2	1	1	3
	2006	5	1	1	2	5
	2007	1	1	2	2	6
South East	1998	2	3	1	5	5
	1999	2	9	4	6	10
	2000	4	1	8	3	7
	2001	1	2	5	4	5
	2002	2	3	3	5	11
	2003	2	6	5	4	8
	2004	3	3	3	5	6
	2005	4	3	6	7	7
	2006	3	6	9	5	13
	2007	2	3	3	8	9
South West	1998	2	1	6	2	4
	1999	4	2	8	3	1
	2000	5	2	4	4	7
	2001	1	1	1	3	5
	2002	1	3	3	3	5
	2003	1	1	2	3	2
	2004	3	1	6	5	11
	2005	2	3	4	5	5
	2006	4	3	5	4	9
	2007	1	1	7	4	7

[1] 'Hospital' includes NHS and non-NHS hospitals or multifunction sites, and military hospitals.
[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the years 1998 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Employment: Defence

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the population is directly employed in defence and related industries. [271248]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of the population are directly employed in Defence and related industries. (271248)

Statistics on Ministry of Defence (MOD) personnel are published by Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA). These indicate that there were a total of around 274,000 service and civilian personnel as at 1 April 2008 who were UK residents.

DASA also publishes estimates of UK employment directly dependent on MOD expenditure and defence exports (other than its service and civilian personnel). This includes employment in

the manufacture of weapons, shipbuilding etc. It is estimated that 160,000 full-time jobs were supported on this basis, on average, during the 2006- 07 financial year, the latest period for which estimates are available. A headcount equivalent of this figure is not available.

Taken together, the latest estimates of service and civilian personnel and of jobs dependent on MOD expenditure indicate that, approximately, 1 per cent of the UK resident population aged 16 and over is directly employed in Defence and related industries.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on employment levels: private sector, what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of individuals who were not British citizens who were employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [271941]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on employment level: private sector, what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of individuals who were not British citizens who were employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. (271941)

The available information for non-UK nationals aged 16 and over is provided in the attached table.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions, but do not include a nationality breakdown.

Citizenship is defined as the nationality reported by the respondents at the time of the survey.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the 2008 estimate is not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Non-UK nationals aged 16 and over employed In the public and private sector three month period ending December, 1997 and 2008 - United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

			Thousands
	Private sector[1, 3]	*Public sector*[1, 2]	*Total*[4]
1997	766	235	1,005
2008[5]	*1,970	**401	*2,385

[1] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates;
- are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
- do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for Public Sector Employment estimates.
[2] Includes nationalised Industry or state corporation, central government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.
[3] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.
[4] Includes those whose type of employer was not known.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent, we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people In most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which existing public bodies the Office for National Statistics has stopped classifying as part of the civil service since 2004. [271969]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 May 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning which existing public bodies the Office for National Statistics has stopped classifying as part of the Civil Service since 2004. (271969).

Estimates for the home civil service from Q3 2004 onwards are taken from the Civil Service element of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES). Estimates prior to this date are based on results from the Civil Service Statistics publication (Mandate collection), undertaken by Cabinet Office.

The Office for National Statistics has stopped classifying the following public bodies as part of the Civil Service since Q3 2004:

Forensic Science Service—became a Government Owned Company on 5 December 2005 and transferred out of the Home Office.

Assets Recovery Agency—on 1 April 2008, the Assets Recovery Agency merged with the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which bodies were classified by the Office for National Statistics as public corporations *(a)* in 1996 and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available. [271970]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning which bodies were classified by the Office for National Statistics as public corporations *(a)* in 1996 and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available. (271970).

The requested information is attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Bodies Classified as Public Corporations in 1996

Aberdeen Harbour Board
Audit Commission for Local Authorities and The National Health Service in England and Wales
Audit Scotland
AWE Management Ltd
Birmingham Airport
Blackburn Borough Transport Ltd
Blyth Harbour Commission
Bournemouth International Airport
Bournemouth Transport Ltd
Bristol International Airport
British Nuclear Fuels Plc
British Railways Board
British Waterways Board
Caledonian Macbrayne Ltd
Cardiff Bay Development Agency
Cardiff City Transport Services Ltd
CDC Group Plc (Commonwealth Development Corporation)
Channel Four Television Corporation Ltd (Including all subsidiaries)
Chester City Transport Ltd
Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Civil Aviation Authority
Covent Garden Market Authority
Cumbernauld Development Corporation
Devn Manufacturing Services Ltd
Development Board for Rural Wales
Devon Waste Management Ltd
Direct Rail Services Ltd
Dover Harbour Board
East of Scotland Water Authority
Eastbourne Buses Ltd
Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation
English Partnerships
Exeter and Devon Airport Ltd
Fleet Air Arm Museum
Gloucestershire Airport
Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive
Halton Borough Transport Ltd
Harwich Haven Authority
Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (Including Airport Management Services)
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Historic Royal Palaces
Horserace Totalisator Board
Ipswich Buses Ltd
Irvine Development Corporation
Islwyn Borough Transport Ltd
Land Authority for Wales
Leeds Bradford International Airport Ltd
Livingston Development Corporation
London Luton International Airport Ltd
London Underground Ltd
Magnox Electric Plc
Manchester Airport Plc
Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive (Including Mersey Ferries Ltd)
Milford Haven Port Authority (Including all subsidiaries)
N.A.A.F.I.
Newcastle International Airport Ltd
North of Scotland Water Authority
Northern Lighthouse Board
Norwich Airport
Nottingham City Transport Ltd
Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd
Poole Harbour Commissioners
Port of London Authority
Port of Tyne Authority
Reading Transport
Remploy Ltd
Rossendale Transport Ltd
Royal Mail Holdings Plc (Excl NDC 2000 Ltd and Romec Ltd)
Royal Naval Museum Trading Co. Ltd
South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Stationery Office
Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive
Tay Roadbridge Joint Board
Thamesdown Transport Ltd
The British Council
The Crown Estate Commissioners
The Oil and Pipeline Agency
The Shoreham Port Authority
Trinity House Lighthouse Service
Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive
Urban Development Corporations
Warrington Borough Transport Ltd
Welsh Development Agency
Welsh Fourth Channel Authority
West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive
West of Scotland Water
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
WJEC CBAC Ltd
Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation

Bodies Classified as Public Corporations in 2008 (Q4):

2010 Rotherham Ltd
Al Housing Bassetlaw Ltd
Aberdeen Harbour Board
Aire Valley Homes Leeds Ltd
Ascham Homes Ltd
Ashfield Homes Ltd
Audit Commission for Local Authorities and The National Health Service in England and Wales
Audit Scotland
AWE Management Ltd
Barnet Homes Ltd
BBC Audiobooks Ltd
BBC World Ltd
BBC Worldwide Ltd (Including Broadcasting Data Services Ltd)
Berneslai Homes Ltd
BIL Solutions Ltd

Blackpool Transport Services Ltd
Blyth Harbour Commission
Blyth Valley Housing Ltd
Bolton at Home Ltd
Bournemouth International Airport Ltd
Bradford and Bingley
Brent Housing Partnership Ltd
British Energy Group Ltd
British Energy Ltd
British Nuclear Fuels Plc
British Waterways Board
British Waterways Marinas Ltd
Calmac Ferries Ltd
Cardiff City Transport Services Ltd
Carrick Housing Ltd
CDC Group Plc
Central Office of Information
Channel Four Television Corporation Ltd (Including all subsidiaries)
Channel Tunnel Rail Link Ltd
Cheltenham Borough Homes
Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Citywest Homes Ltd
Civil Aviation Authority
CNC Building Control Consultancy
Colchester Borough Homes Ltd
Companies House
Covent Garden Market Authority
Dale and Valley Homes
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
Defence Support Group
Derby Homes Ltd
Deva Manufacturing Services Ltd
Devon Waste Management Ltd
Direct Rail Services Ltd
Dover Harbour Board
Driving Standards Agency
Ealing Homes Ltd
East Durham Homes Ltd
East Midlands International Airport
East North East Homes Leeds
Eastbourne Buses Ltd
Eastbourne Homes Ltd
Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation
Eurostar (UK)Ltd
Export Credit Guarantee Department
Financial Ombudsman Services Ltd
Financial Services Compensation Scheme
Fire Service College
First Choice Homes Oldham Ltd
Fleet Air Arm Museum
Forensic Science
General Teaching Council for Wales
Gloucester City Homes Ltd
Gloucestershire Airport Ltd
Golden Gates Housing Ltd
Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive
Hackney Homes
Halton Borough Transport Ltd
Hammersmith and Fulham Housing Management Services Ltd
Harwich Haven Authority
High Peak Community Housing Ltd
Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (Including Airport Management Services)
Hillingdon Homes Ltd
Historic Royal Palaces
Homes for Haringey
Homes for Islington Ltd
Horserace Totalisator Board
Hounslow Homes Ltd
Humberside International Airport Ltd
Ipswich Buses Ltd
Islwyn Borough Transport Ltd
Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing Ltd
Lambeth Living Ltd
Land Registry
Leasehold Advisory Service
Lewisham Homes
London and Continental Railways Ltd
London and Continental Stations and Property Ltd
London Underground Ltd
Magnox Electric Plc
Manchester Airport Group Plc
Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive (Including Mersey Ferries Ltd)
Met Office
Milford Haven Port Authority (Including all subsidiaries)
Newark and Sherwood Homes Ltd
Newcastle International Airport Ltd
Newham Homes Ltd
Newport Transport Ltd
Northern Lighthouse Board
Northern Rock
Northwards Housing
Nottingham City Holmes
Nottingham City Transport Ltd
Ofcom
OGC Buying Solutions
Ordnance Survey
Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd
Pension Protection Fund
People 1st Slough
Plymouth Citybus Ltd
Poole Harbour Commissioners
Poole Housing Partnership Ltd
Port of London Authority
Port of Tyne Authority
Reading Transport Ltd
Registers of Scotland
Remploy Ltd
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing Ltd
Rossendale Transport Ltd
Royal Mail Holdings Plc (Excluding NDC 2000 Ltd and Romec Ltd)
Royal Mint
Royal Naval Museum Trading Company Ltd
Rykneld Homes

Salix Homes
Sandwell Homes Ltd
Scottish Water
Sellafield Ltd
Sheffield Homes Ltd
Six Town Housing Ltd
Solihull Community Housing Ltd
South Essex Homes Ltd
South Lakes Housing
South Tyneside Homes Ltd
South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
St Leger Homes of Doncaster Ltd
Stockport Homes
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Sutton Housing Partnership
Tay Roadbridge Joint Board
Thamesdown Transport Ltd
The BBC World Service Trust
The British Council
The Crown Estate Commissioners
The Financial Services Authority
The Gateshead Housing Company Ltd
The General Teaching Council for England
The Learning Skill and Improvement
The Learning Trust
The Oil and Pipeline Agency
The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation Ltd
The Shoreham Port Authority
Thurrock Development Corporation
Tote Bookmakers Ltd
Tote Credit Ltd
Tower Hamlets Homes Ltd
Trinity House Lighthouse Service
Tristar Homes Ltd
Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive
UK Hydrographic Office
UK Intellectual Property Office
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
Wales Audit Office
Warrington Borough Transport Ltd
West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive
West North West Homes Leeds
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Wigan and Leigh Housing Company Ltd
WJEC CBAC Ltd
Wolverhampton Homes Ltd
Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation
Your Homes Newcastle Ltd

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 252WA, on teenage pregnancy, if he will rank the wards in each local authority from highest to lowest in respect of their rates of conceptions to under-18 year olds. [271491]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking for the wards in each local authority to be ranked from highest to lowest in respect of their rates of conceptions to under 18 year olds. (271491)

The information requested is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost However, ONS has ranked under 18 conception rates for 2000-02 and 2001-03 for all the wards in England and Wales by quintiles and published these as thematic maps on the Neighbourhood statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of third sector organisations in receipt of public funds. [271485]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office does not hold this information centrally.

Data from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations' UK Civil Society Almanac 2009 show that in 2006-07 25 per cent. of general charities—40,000 organisations—received public funding.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which third sector organisation received the largest allocation from the public purse in each of the last five years. [271486]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office does not hold this information centrally.

Voluntary Organisations: Government Assistance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps have been taken to increase access to Government grants for small, community-led projects. [271967]

Kevin Brennan: Government are investing £130 million through the Grassroots Grants programme to deliver small grants funding to charities and social enterprises.

In West Sussex for example, Government have committed £1,836,363 over three years to provide immediate funding to small, local community groups, and also to match fund local donations, which will support these groups into the future.

In recognition of the particular challenges facing community level third sector organisations who provide recession focused services, Government have provided a further £15.5 million to support these organisations in the 50 areas of England most at risk of increased deprivation as a result of the recessions.

More information about the Grassroots Grants and Targeted Support Funds can be found at the Community Development Foundation (CDF) website:

www.cdf.org.uk

Voluntary Organisations: Leicestershire

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to third sector organisations in *(a)* Leicester East constituency and *(b)* Leicestershire in each of the last five years. [271483]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office does not hold this information centrally.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate he has made of the number of third sector organisations operating in Leicester East constituency. [271484]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office does not hold information on the number of third sector organisations operating in each constituency area.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances there were at each type 1 accident and emergency department in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [271810]

Mr. Bradshaw: A table which shows the number of attendances at major (type 1) accident and emergency departments, in the most recent year for which figures are available (2008) has been placed in the Library. The data requested are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/AccidentandEmergency/DH_077485

Cancer: Alcoholic Drinks

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the relationship between alcohol consumption and cancer among *(a)* men and *(b)* women; and if he will make a statement. [270218]

Dawn Primarolo: Research has shown that alcohol is a carcinogen and that long-term regular consumption increases the risks of cancers of the mouth, oesophagus (gullet), larynx, liver, and female breast and, to a lesser extent, cancers of the colon, and rectum. While research suggests that there is no low level of long-term, regular consumption of alcohol that can reliably be described as risk-free, any such increased risk of cancer at low levels of consumption is itself reported as low.

The relative risks of developing mouth, oesophagus (gullet), larynx, colo-rectum, liver and female breast cancer are given in the following table:

Alcohol-related cancers	*Relative risk of developing cancer for men regularly drinking 40 grams (g) (5 units) or more per day and women regularly drinking 20g (2.5 units) or more per day compared to men/women who do not drink*[1]		*Relative risk of developing cancer for men regularly drinking 60g (7.5 units) or more per day and women regularly drinking 40g (5 units) or more per day compared to men/women who do not drink*[2]	
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*
Mouth	2.5	1.7	5.4	5.4
Oesophagus	1.9	1.4	4.4	4.4
Larynx	[3]1.8	1.2	4.9	4.9
Colo-rectum	[4]1.2	1.1	[4]1.5	1.4
Liver	1.3	1.2	3.6	3.6
Female breast	n/a	1.2	n/a	1.6

[1] Unless otherwise stated, relative risks taken from National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia: www.nhmrc.gov.au/consult/_files/draft_australian_alcohol_guidelines.pdf

[2] Unless otherwise stated, relative risks taken from Rehm J., Room R., Monteiro M., Gmel G., Graham K., Rehn T., Sempos C. T., Frick U., Jernigan D. Alcohol. (2004) In: WHO (ed), Comparative quantification of health risks: Global and regional burden of disease due to selected major risk factors. Geneva: WHO.

[3] From Corrao, G., Bagnardi, V., Zambon, A. and La Vecchia C. (2004) A meta-analysis of alcohol consumption and the risk of 15 diseases. Preventive Medicine 38 613-619.

[4] World Cancer Research Fund/American Institute for Cancer Research. Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity, and the Prevention of Cancer: a Global Perspective. Washington DC: AICR, 2007

The Department is committed to raising public understanding of the risks from excessive alcohol consumption, including those relating to various types of cancer. Raised risks of female breast cancer, in particular, are highlighted in the Department's 'Know Your Limits' campaign, which began in May 2008.

Cancer: Death

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths from cancer there were in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower layer super output area in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [271808]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from cancer there were in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower layer super output area in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. (271808)

The tables provide the number of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause of death in each *(a)* electoral ward (Table 1) and *(b)* lower super output area (Table 2), in England, for 2007 (the latest year available). A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* overseas and *(b)* domestic (i) travel and (ii) subsistence in respect of its (A) officials and (B) contractors in each year since 1997 [267473]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no statutory requirement to report overseas and domestic travel or subsistence as separate items in the departmental annual accounts. Therefore, it is only possible to provide the total value of travel and subsistence paid (which includes overnight accommodation). Similarly, it is not possible to separately identify officials and contractors.

In July 2008, the Department introduced a new finance system, which does allow for the separate identification of domestic and overseas travel. Separate figures for overseas and domestic travel will therefore be available from the 2009-10 financial year. However, these expenses will not be identifiable as for departmental staff or contractors.

	£
1997-98	7,945,553.00
1998-99	7,206,737.00
1999-2000	8,815,086.00
2000-01	9,516,488.00
2001-02	10,394,783.00
2002-03	9,656,964.00
2003-04	11,241,230.00
2004-05	11,260,503.00
2005-06	9,095,161.00
2006-07	8,245,829.00
2007-08	7,245,554.00
2008-09	9,549,641.00

Drinking Water

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the comparative effects on health of bottled water and tap water. [272045]

Dawn Primarolo: No research has been undertaken or evaluated by my Department on this matter.

Both bottled water and tap water must comply with legislation that establishes safety limits for chemicals and microbes in the water. These requirements are similar for both tap water and bottled water.

The safety and quality of the public water supply is regulated in England by the Drinking Water Inspectorate and that of private water supplies and bottled water by local authorities.

Eczema: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with eczema in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. [272161]

Ann Keen: The information on the number of people diagnosed with eczema in Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally.

Epilepsy: Waiting Lists

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 933W, on epilepsy: waiting lists, for what *(a)* clinical and *(b)* other reasons no specific waiting time targets have been set for referrals of patients with suspected epilepsy. [272638]

Ann Keen: The Department does not set targets, or collect data, on waiting times for most specific medical conditions. However, guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in their report, The diagnosis and management of the epilepsies in adults and children in primary and secondary care, published October 2004 recommends that all people having a first seizure should be seen as soon as possible by a specialist in the management of the epilepsies to ensure precise and early diagnosis and initiation of therapy as appropriate to their needs.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners resident in Hendon had free eye tests in 2008-09. [272300]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority but is not available by parliamentary constituency. In 2007-08, 30,738 persons over 60 received a free national health service sight test in the Barnet PCT area. Barnet PCT comprises the Hendon, Chipping Barnet, and Finchley and Golders Green constituencies.

First Aid: Parents

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the proportion of new parents who undertook training in first aid prior to the birth of their children in the last 12 months. [272494]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of parents who have undertaken first aid training is not available.

Our publication "Birth to Five" gives advice to new mothers on a full range of child health, development and parenting issues, including how to cope with illness, injuries and step-by-step emergency first aid. "Birth to Five" encourages parents to take a first aid course and gives information on courses run by the St. John's Ambulance and local NHS ambulance services. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

Food: Hygiene

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many businesses selling food have been closed consequent upon visits from environmental health inspectors in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. [272160]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authority environmental health officers have powers under food safety regulations to close food establishments, through either an emergency prohibition notice/order or a voluntary closure, because of their imminent risk to food safety. Establishments may subsequently re-open if brought back to compliance with food safety regulations. In a small number of cases, an emergency notice may be served prohibiting the use of a specified piece of equipment; however, the food business may continue to operate.

The figures in the following table show the number of food establishments subject to an emergency prohibition notice/order, or a voluntary closure:

	Hertfordshire[1]	*Hemel Hempstead*[2]
2006-07	10	0
2005-06	3	1
2004-05	3	0
2003	6	1
2002	3	0
2001	6	0
2000	n/a	n/a
1999	n/a	n/a
1998	n/a	n/a
1997	n/a	n/a

[1] The local authorities comprising the Hertfordshire region are shown at: www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/DG_4003594
[2] Data for Dacorum district council.
Notes:
1. Data were collected on a financial year basis from 2004-05 but on a calendar year basis prior to this.
2. The last year for which full year data are available is 2006-07.
3. No breakdown of data below the total for England is available for years prior to 2001.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many businesses selling food have been closed after visits from environmental health inspectors in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [271346]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authority environmental health officers have powers under food safety regulations to close food establishments, through either an emergency prohibition notice/order or a voluntary closure, because of their imminent risk to food safety. Establishments may subsequently re-open if brought back to compliance with food safety regulations. In a small number of cases, an emergency notice may be served prohibiting the use of a specified piece of equipment; however, the food business may continue to operate.

The figures in the following table show the number of food establishments subject to an emergency prohibition notice/order, or a voluntary closure:

	England	*North East England*[2]	*Tees Valley*[1]	*Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland*[2]
2006-07	739	30	12	12
2005-06	609	14	2	0
2004-05	629	22	2	2
2003	518	16	2	2
2002	413	7	3	2
2001	350	6	4	3
2000	313	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999	386	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998	410	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997	393	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1]. The local authorities comprising these regions are shown at: www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/DG_4003598
[2]. Combined data for *(a)* Middlesbrough council and *(b)* Redcar and Cleveland borough council
Notes:
1. Data were collected on a financial year basis from 2004-05 but on a calendar year basis prior to this.
2. The last year for which full year data are available is 2006-07
3. A regional breakdown of data is not available prior to 2001

Health Visitors: Children

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts in England provide for health visitors to carry out routine development checks upon children at *(a)* eight months and *(b)* two years old. [271746]

Ann Keen: The Healthy Child programme (formerly the Child Health Promotion programme) is the early intervention and prevention public health programme beginning in pregnancy through to the first five years of life. It sets out a schedule of the core universal services, providing families with a programme of screening, immunisation, health and development reviews, health promotion and parenting guidance, at various stages, including at six months to a year and between one to three years. The Healthy Child programme sets out the core universal programme to be commissioned by local primary care trusts and provided for all families as well as identifying additional preventive elements that may improve the outcomes for children with medium and high risk factors.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 510-11W, on hospital wards, how many staff at each grade are working in the operations team; and what programme governance infrastructure has been established; [271164]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 510-11W, on hospital wards, which NHS trusts were identified in March 2009 as requiring support from the improvement team; [271168]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 874W, on hospital wards: gender, how many improvement teams there will be; what the size of each team will be; how much funding will be allocated to each team; and what qualifications members of teams will be required to have. [271202]

Ann Keen: There are currently three permanent civil servants working within the core eliminating mixed sex accommodation programme team. These are graded; one grade 6, one senior executive officer and one higher executive officer. Additionally, the programme lead is a hosted NHS[1] member of staff working at the equivalent of a senior civil servant grade 1. Each of these members of staff also participate in other areas of departmental work.

Working alongside the core team is a group of six hosted national health service staff, two secondees and six contractors. As the programme progresses, it will continue to draw on input from a range of expertise sourced from both the Department and from external organisations, (including the NHS), as determined by the emerging requirements.

An internal assurance governance group is in place which includes the programme's Director and policy lead who report directly to the Department's two lead Director Generals; i.e. the Chief Nursing Officer and the Director General, NHS Finance, Performance and Operation.

An improvement programme has been developed through a series of initial fact-finding visits to trusts. The sites selected are experiencing a range of problems and volunteered for the visits.

Full improvement team support will commence in May this year, beginning with those trusts perceived by the public as having shared accommodation and wash facilities and those who have reported having problems.

The total number of trusts with which improvement teams will engage has not been decided, as such the number of teams cannot yet be specified. The size of any one improvement team will vary, as it will be determined by the nature and complexities of an individual trust's requirements. Likewise, the resources allocated to each team will vary in accordance with the objectives of each improvement visit.

There are no pre-determined qualification requirements for improvement team members. It is envisaged that teams comprise expertise relating to; nursing, admissions and bed management, estates/hospital design and communications. The main criteria is that members' expertise contributes to delivering the improvement objectives of a particular visit.

[1] Via the NHS Business Services Authority

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 510-11W, on hospital wards, (1) what funding was released to each strategic health authority on 1 April 2009; and how much has been allocated to each project; [271165]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of each of the two-weekly update reports which have been received from strategic health authorities; [271166]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each strategic health authority plan which were to be submitted to his Department by 9 March 2009. [271167]

Ann Keen: Funding has been confirmed with each strategic health authority (SHA) as follows:

SHA	*Allocation (£ million)*
North West	14.8
North East	5.7
East of England	10.3
East Midlands	8.4
West Midlands	10.8
South West	9.6
South Central	6.8
South East Coast	7.8
London	15.3
Yorkshire and Humber	10.5
Total	100

Information is not available to confirm the funding for each individual project. Copies of the SHA plans will be placed in the Library. The two-weekly monitoring reports are subject to revision and may provide an incomplete or misleading assessment of progress against the SHA plans. Each SHA will be required to submit a report in early July confirming delivery of their plans. These will be made available in the Library.

Hyperactivity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* under 10 years and *(b)* under 16 years were diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available. [272782]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected on the number of people diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

In 2006, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance on the use of drugs to treat ADHD. NICE has estimated that around 5 per cent. of school-aged children meet the diagnostic criteria for ADHD, equivalent to 366,000 children and adolescents in England and Wales, but not all these children will require medication.

Influenza

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which voluntary organisations have been involved in developing his Department's plans for responding to an influenza pandemic; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that such organisations assist the implementation of those plans. [272499]

Dawn Primarolo: The following organisations have been involved in developing the Department's plans for responding to an influenza pandemic: the British Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, Women's Royal Voluntary Society Disaster Action, the Samaritans, Salvation Army and other smaller organisations who are members of the Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Forum.

In the draft "Pandemic Influenza: Guidance on planning for vulnerable groups", published on the Department's website last year, primary care trusts and Local Resilience Forums have also been encouraged to involve third sector (voluntary) organisations in their planning for an influenza pandemic. A copy of the draft has been placed in the Library.

Specific advice and information leaflets for third sector organisations have been developed for the Department of Health. Drafts of the leaflets were presented to the Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Forum last November 2008. We will be seeking to publish them in May 2009.

NHS: Accidents

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of staff hours lost and *(b)* other costs to the NHS arising from workplace accidents in each of the last three years. [272064]

Ann Keen: Data relating to the number of staff hours lost due to accidents in the workplace are not collected centrally. National health service trusts and foundation trusts, as employers in their own right, may collect this information for their own purposes.

The National Health Service Litigation Authority has supplied the following figures covering claims already paid to staff and outstanding costs to staff for each of the last three years in respect of the employers liability cover that they provide for NHS organisations. Costs include legal costs for both claimant and defence parties, and costs for damages. Employees have up to three years in which to register a claim.

	Incident year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of claims	2,366	2,090	1,011
Outstanding estimate	25,392,037	23,079,422	13,178,698
Already paid	9,401,526	3,420,344	210,794
Total	34,793,563	26,499,766	13,389,492

NHS: Accountancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1934-5W, on NHS: accountancy, what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on the revenue of NHS organisations of the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards from April 2009. [271288]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service organisations have submitted their 2009-10 International Financial Reporting Standards compliant financial plans and we are now undertaking detailed reviews with strategic health authorities to agree these plans.

Once this agreement process has been completed, the detailed financial impact of the transition will be established.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last met the Chief Executive of Monitor to discuss salary levels of senior management of NHS foundation trusts. [268873]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State for Health and the Chairman of Monitor have regular meetings to discuss various issues. The most recent of these was on 28 April 2009.

NHS: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the administration costs of the NHS Pension scheme were in each of the last 10 years. [272667]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following table.

Year ending 31 March	*Administration costs (£ million)*
2000	15.4
2001	17.1
2002	18.9
2003	19.4
2004	19.6
2005	23.0
2006	27.6
2007	23.5
2008	21.5
2009	21.2

Note:
In 2004, the Student Grants Unit (SGU) merged with NHS Pensions to become one strategic health authority, and the SGU admin costs are included in the figures for years ending 2005 and 2006. The SGU was then separated out again once NHS Pensions became part of the NHS Business Services Authority.
Source:
NHS Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff started claiming their pension from the NHS Pension scheme before the scheme's normal retirement age in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [272668]

Ann Keen: The information available is shown in the following table.

Retirements of Active NHS Pension scheme members

Year ending 31 March	*Age*	*Ill-health*	*Redundancy*	*Agreed voluntary early retirement (AVER)*	*Voluntary early retirement (VER)*
2004	14,259	3,374	760	—	—
2005	15,497	2,954	531	—	—
2006	16,004	2,590	410	62	1,597
2007	19,415	2,422	891	195	3,107
2008	21,078	2,201	940	138	3,216

Note:
Data on AVER and VER was not collected separately until the year ending 2006
Source:
NHS Pensions

NHS: Redundancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time NHS staff have been made redundant in each of the last 10 years. [272669]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available for the period or the form requested. Numbers of compulsory redundancies have been collected since 2006-07. In 2006-07 there were 2,330 redundancies and in 2007-08 there were 2,223.

Information on the numbers of staff who were granted an early retirement pension on the grounds of redundancy is shown in the following table.

Year ending 31 March	*Numbers of redundancy retirements*
1999	1,345
2000	925
2001	917
2002	589
2003	494

Year ending 31 March	Numbers of redundancy retirements
2004	760
2005	531
2006	410
2007	891
2008	940

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy of the NHS on the size of redundancy payments is; and if he will make a statement. [272670]

Ann Keen: Redundancy payments to NHS staff are made in line with the arrangements set out in section 16 of the Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook. These came into force from 1 October 2006. At the same time changes were made to the National Health Service (Compensation for Premature Retirement) Regulations 2002 and the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations 1995. These were also negotiated in partnership with the NHS trade unions. Under these arrangements the standard redundancy terms are one months pay per year of reckonable service up to a maximum of 24 months pay. Members aged over the minimum pension age may choose to use their redundancy payment to pay for their retirement pension to be paid on redundancy without reduction. The previous redundancy arrangements involving enhancements of service of up to 10 years are being phased out and will cease to apply completely from October 2011.

Section 16 makes clear that before making staff redundant employers should seek suitable alternative employment either in their own organisation or with another NHS employer.

Nurses: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average ratio of nurses to patients was at each hospital in Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. [272159]

Ann Keen: The average ratio of nurses to patients at each hospital in Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally.

Patient Rights

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2186W, on patient rights, what the financial levers will be in the standard contracts from April 2010; and what the measures of and definitions for overriding clinical justification are. [271204]

Ann Keen: Progress is being made to develop the levers that would fit into the current structure of the contracts. The options will be tested prior to final decisions being taken later in the year for implementation in April 2010.

The local national health service, rather than the Department, is best placed to make final decisions about what constitutes a clinical justification of mixed sex accommodation for an individual patient. To assist with such local determination, the Department will shortly be issuing definitional guidance relating to emergency admissions, day treatment, critical care environments, children and young people, as well as services used by transsexual people and gender variant children.

Strokes

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged (i) under 30 years, (ii) between 30 and 50 years and (iii) over 50 years (A) were admitted to hospital and (B) died upon having a stroke in each of the last 10 years. [270813]

Ann Keen: The available information is in the following tables and notes.

Count of finished admission episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of stroke[1], by age and sex, 1998-99 to 2007-08: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Ages 29 and under				Ages 30 to 50			
	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2007-08	623	469	1	0	3,448	2,854	0	0
2006-07	599	454	0	0	3,622	2,832	1	0
2005-06	618	463	0	0	3,429	2,771	2	0
2004-05	564	497	0	0	3,488	2,980	0	0
2003-04	583	436	0	0	3,326	2,706	0	1
2002-03	589	448	0	0	3,181	2,795	0	0
2001-02	557	404	0	0	3,048	2,504	0	0
2000-01	494	420	0	6	2,873	2,514	0	0
1999-2000	542	447	0	0	2,894	2,656	2	4
1998-99	547	450	1	0	3,047	2,660	0	1

	Ages 51 and over				Unknown age			
	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2007-08	35,740	39,669	1	4	13	34	1	1
2006-07	35,936	40,548	5	6	49	64	0	0
2005-06	37,333	42,596	3	4	12	18	0	0
2004-05	36,850	42,653	3	5	11	18	0	0
2003-04	37,428	43,171	1	3	13	9	0	0
2002-03	37,938	44,182	2	5	96	122	0	0

	Ages 51 and over				Unknown age			
	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2001-02	37,203	42,925	4	2	38	50	2	42
2000-01	36,788	43,179	2	31	101	77	0	1
1999-2000	38,667	45,617	4	97	59	47	0	1
1998-99	39,696	45,985	23	32	69	54	0	0

	All ages			
	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2007-08	39,824	43,026	3	5
2006-07	40,396	43,889	6	6
2005-06	41,392	45,848	7	4
2004-05	40,913	46,148	3	5
2003-04	41,350	46,322	1	4
2002-03	41,806	47,547	2	5
2001-02	40,846	45,943	6	44
2000-01	40,258	46,190	2	38
1999-2000	42,153	48,764	6	102
1998-99	43,159	49,158	24	33

Count of discharge episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of stroke[1] and the patient died in hospital[2], by age and sex, 1998-99 to 2007-08: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	29 and under		30 to 50			51 and over			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2007-08	52	33	345	280	0	7,920	12,152	1	1
2006-07	50	40	347	312	0	8,045	12,419	1	2
2005-06	50	45	391	336	0	8,461	13,231	1	2
2004-05	52	36	379	333	0	8,878	13,697	2	1
2003-04	53	32	401	357	0	9,378	14,293	1	1
2002-03	58	42	389	377	0	9,984	14,975	0	2
2001-02	60	38	368	361	0	9,849	14,602	0	2
2000-01	66	37	376	334	0	9,888	14,777	0	10
1999-2000	57	48	346	397	0	10,502	15,475	0	46
1998-99	52	40	418	392	1	11,217	16,496	1	9

	Unknown				All ages			
	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2007-08	3	12	1	1	8,320	12,477	2	2
2006-07	6	12	0	0	8,448	12,782	1	2
2005-06	2	7	0	0	8,904	13,619	1	2
2004-05	2	7	0	0	9,311	14,093	2	1
2003-04	3	2	0	0	9,835	14,684	1	1
2002-03	24	48	0	0	10,455	15,442	0	2
2001-02	13	29	0	11	10,290	15,021	0	13
2000-01	30	28	0	0	10,360	15,176	0	10
1999-2000	9	19	0	0	10,914	15,959	0	46
1998-99	28	21	0	0	11,715	16,948	3	9

Count of discharge episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of stroke[1], by age and sex, 1998-99 to 2007-08: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	29 and under				30 to 50			
	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2007-08	663	502	1	0	3,776	3,077	0	0
2006-07	636	477	0	0	3,912	3,012	1	0
2005-06	644	472	0	0	3,649	2,945	3	0
2004-05	581	503	0	0	3,694	3,136	0	0
2003-04	588	443	0	0	3,488	2,821	0	1
2002-03	590	464	0	0	3,306	2,929	0	0
2001-02	565	413	0	0	3,092	2,620	0	0
2000-01	566	427	0	6	2,940	2,561	0	0
1999-2000	558	453	0	0	2,912	2,738	2	4
1998-99	560	463	1	0	3,073	2,702	0	1

	51 and over				Unknown			
	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2007-08	46,759	45,698	1	4	15	45	1	1
2006-07	49,681	46,186	8	7	52	76	0	0
2005-06	41,408	47,437	11	4	14	20	0	0
2004-05	40,134	46,892	4	5	13	21	0	0
2003-04	40,231	46,754	1	3	14	11	0	0
2002-03	40,464	47,381	2	5	99	122	0	0
2001-02	38,549	44,631	4	3	40	53	2	48
2000-01	37,868	44,476	2	34	113	84	4	1
1999-2000	39,198	46,508	4	109	36	35	0	1
1998-99	40,519	47,337	25	26	68	54	0	0

	All ages			
	Male	Female	Not specified	Not known
2007-08	45,213	49,322	3	5
2006-07	45,271	49,365	9	7
2005-06	45,714	50,874	14	4
2004-05	44,622	50,952	4	5
2003-04	44,333	50,829	1	4
2002-03	44,419	50,887	2	5
2001-02	42,087	47,723	6	51
2000-01	41,235	47,538	6	48
1999-2000	42,766	49,716	6	105
1998-99	44,230	50,556	24	35

Notes:
1. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
' Primary diagnosis codes used:
I60 Subarachnoid haemorrhage
I61 Intracerebral haemorrhage
I62 Other nontraumatic intracranial haemorrhage
I63 Cerebral infarction
I64 Stroke not specified as haemorrhage or infarction
2. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and works to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
4. Unproved data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are unproved.
5. Discharges: A discharge episode is the last episode during a hospital stay (a spell), where the patient is discharged from the hospital (this includes transfer to another hospital).
6. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
7. Deaths: HES data cannot be used to determine the cause of death of a patient while in hospital. Deaths recorded on the HES database may be analysed by the main diagnosis for which the patient was being treated during their stay in hospital, which may not necessarily be the underlying cause of death. For example, a patient admitted for a hernia operation (with a primary diagnosis of hernia) may die from an unrelated a heart attack. The Office for National Statistics collects information on the cause of death, wherever it occurs, based on the death certificate and should be the source of data for analyses on cause of death.
' A death in hospital is coded as discharge method = 4 (dead).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 391W, on trade unions, which trade unions his Department's agencies recognise. [271922]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 391W. There has been no change in the unions recognised by the Department and its agencies since that time.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos: Schools

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what relevant interests were declared by those responsible for *(a)* advice on and *(b)* drafting of the Health and Safety Executive report RR624. Further measurements of fibre concentrations in CLASP construction buildings. [271138]

Jonathan Shaw: This project was funded by HSE to support a working group set up to consider asbestos risks in CLASP and other system-built schools. The working group was made up of specialists from central

and local government organisations—including the author of the report RR624, a Principal Scientist employed as a civil servant by the Health and Safety Laboratory. Individual working group members declared no interests. The working group did however include a representative of SCAPE—the trading arm of CLASP. Input from this commercial organisation was necessary to provide information on the design and location of CLASP buildings.

Benefits Rules

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government plans to relax the 16-hour rule relating to work and benefits; and if he will make a statement. [264867]

Mr. McNulty: We have no plans to relax the remunerative work rule whereby a person may not claim working-age benefits if they are working for more than 16-hours a week. This rule has been designed to strike a balance between providing for need and maintaining work incentives.

It is inevitable that there must be a cut-off point at which work is regarded as full-time in any income-related scheme intended to help people who are unable to support themselves by working. People on low incomes who work for 16-hours or more a week have access to working tax credit. Furthermore, benefits such as housing benefit and council tax benefit are in-work, as well as out-of-work benefits, and are specifically designed to ensure that people have sufficient encouragement to find and to remain in work, particularly when their income from that employment is low.

Construction: Safety

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria applied to the selection of buildings in the Health and Safety Executive report RR624 - Further measurements of fibre concentrations in CLASP construction buildings; and if he will make a statement. [270420]

Jonathan Shaw: The duty holders for all CLASP system built schools were asked in 2006 to check for asbestos and seal it securely if it was present.

Report RR624 was published in 2008 and contains the results of a sampling survey which was designed to see if remedial work to seal and secure asbestos had been done effectively and if there was any potential for residual risks of exposure to asbestos.

In order to obtain accurate results it was important to complete the sampling in normal school operating conditions. This required considerable disruption to classroom activities. Therefore the research team selected buildings from a number of volunteer organisations who were willing to co-operate in providing access and tolerate the disruption. Seven school buildings were tested where remedial work on asbestos had already been completed but samples were also taken in two locations where no work had been done.

The analysis of 28 air samples from the seven schools did not detect any asbestos.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for any such suspensions. [270506]

Mr. McNulty: As at 21 April 2009, nine people are suspended on full pay.

Length of time suspended from duty	*Number of employees*
0-6 months	4
6-12 months	3
12 plus months	2
Total	9

The Department for Work and Pensions Records the numbers of staff on suspension under a single category of "absence". Information is not recorded on our HR System to break this down further.

To provide information in the format requested would be at disproportionate cost and not in line with departmental policy, on the grounds of confidentiality.

Employment: Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure under what budgetary headings was incurred by his Department in relation to the Employment Summit held on 12 January 2009. [270545]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* The Employment summit was held at the Science museum in London on 12 January. The total cost of the event was £162,076. The costs are broken down by budgetary headings in the following table.

Expenditure breakdown of Employment summit held on 12 January 2009

	£
Catering Costs	5,641
Venue Hire	13,950
Event Management	142,485
Total	162,076

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded up to the nearest pound.
2. Event management covers conference organisation, delegate contact, staging, interactive technology, insurance and photography.

Source:
DWP Communications Directorate.

Employment: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were advertised in job centres in North East Fife constituency in each month of 2008; and for how long on average such vacancies were advertised. [270861]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

The coverage of these figures relates only to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job

vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

Vacancies advertised in North East Fife parliamentary constituency in each month of 2008

	Live unfilled vacancies	*Median duration (days between notification and closure)*
January	182	40.2
February	315	20.1
March	443	14.6
April	426	21.2
May	341	12.9
June	394	20.9
July	549	6.4
August	421	28.5
September	456	22.1
October	289	21.1
November	172	19.4
December	181	11.2

Notes:
1. Data are unrounded.
2. The stocks of live unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
3. The median duration (in days) is calculated by ranking all the vacancies in order of ascending duration and taking the middle value. Half the vacancies will have a duration greater than the median, and half will have a duration less than the median. For most purposes, the median will give a more representative measure of the average duration a mean figure tends to be distorted by a small number of vacancies that have very long durations. The median duration is available using live unfilled vacancy figures only.
4. These figures are published at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

European Union

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what visits he has made to Brussels on official business in the last three months. [272487]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State has not made any visits to Brussels on official business in the last three months.

Health and Safety Executive: Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has held since January 2008 at which the primary subject for discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within the HSE's responsibility. [270565]

Jonathan Shaw: HSE has not identified a need to convene any special summits or conferences on the impact of the economic downturn. Workers and others should still expect to be properly protected against the very real risks presented by work activities. It is particularly important during the downturn and the eventual recovery that hard won standards of health and safety be maintained; standards for which the UK should rightly be proud. HSE will not back away from pursuing enforcement action where necessary against those who seek to avoid or abuse their legal responsibilities. HSE is not unsympathetic however to the effects of the downturn and is keeping the situation under review. It is in regular contact with key stakeholders elsewhere in Government, in trade unions, in key business sectors and in academia. The current priority themes of leadership, competence and worker involvement underpinned by a commonsense and proportionate approach to risk management are exactly those necessary for business survival and recovery.

Housing Benefit: Fraud

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were successfully prosecuted for housing benefit fraud in London in the last three years for which figures are available. [249557]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is provided in the following table:

Successful housing benefit prosecutions in London for the last three years for which data is available

2005-06	696
2006-07	723
2007-08	697

Notes:
1. Housing benefit operational database (HoBOD) data is populated by housing benefit administrative returns supplied from local authorities.
2. The administrative returns are management information data and are not subject to further quality assurance from the Department such as performing any imputation for missing values.

Source:
Housing benefit operational database' located at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hobod/

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many frontline Jobcentre Plus staff there were in each Jobcentre Plus district in each quarter of the last two years; [264653]

(2) how many staff have left positions in Jobcentre Plus in each region in each month of the last two years. [264656]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the ability of Jobcentre Plus staff to deliver the full range of services provided under re-employment and training programmes. [263813]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the population in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each of the Scottish regions and *(c)* North East Fife constituency claimed the allowance in each such year. [270855]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Area	*March 2005*	*% of population*	*March 2006*	*% of population*	*March 2007*	*% of population*	*March 2008*	*% of population*	*March 2009*	*% of population*
United Kingdom	882,298	2.4	989,136	2.6	956,022	2.5	842,827	2.2	1,523,482	4.0
Scotland	93,577	2.9	95,361	3.0	87,397	2.7	75,249	2.3	126,452	3.9
Aberdeen City	2,572	1.9	2,309	1.7	2,034	1.5	1,680	1.2	2,743	2.0
Aberdeenshire	1,922	1.3	1,616	1.1	1,375	0.9	1,141	0.8	2,033	1.4
Angus	1,934	3.0	1,864	2.9	1,641	2.5	1,252	1.9	2,163	3.3
Argyll & Bute	1,471	2.7	1,520	2.8	1,380	2.6	1,200	2.2	1,797	3.3
Clackmannanshire	1,037	3.4	1,018	3.3	980	2.9	822	2.5	1,593	4.8
Dumfries & Galloway	2,292	2.6	2,423	2.8	2,331	2.7	2,038	2.4	3,199	3.7
Dundee City	3,913	4.4	3,901	4.4	3,633	4.1	3,266	3.6	4,710	5.3
East Ayrshire	3,316	4.5	3,192	4.3	2,944	3.9	2,523	3.3	4,043	5.3
East Dunbartonshire	1,106	1.7	1,149	1.8	994	1.5	881	1.4	1,674	2.6
East Lothian	952	1.8	852	1.6	784	1.3	702	1.2	1,615	2.7
East Renfrewshire	841	1.6	811	1.5	745	1.2	595	1.0	1,166	1.9
Edinburgh, City of	7,077	2.3	7,266	2.3	6,526	2.0	5,546	1.7	9,374	2.9
Eilean Siar	569	3.7	551	3.6	537	3.1	385	2.1	658	3.5
Falkirk	2,766	3.0	2,653	2.8	2,494	2.5	2,088	2.1	4,131	4.1
Fife	7,947	3.6	8,418	3.8	7,476	3.4	6,246	2.8	10,062	4.5
Glasgow City	15,952	4.2	16,365	4.2	15,378	4.0	14,374	3.7	21,017	5.4
Highland	3,413	2.6	3,259	2.5	2,938	2.2	2,419	1.8	4,238	3.1
Inverclyde	2,459	4.9	2,379	4.7	2,278	4.6	1,891	3.8	2,545	5.1
Midlothian	1,050	2.2	1,173	2.4	953	2.0	849	1.7	1,623	3.3
Moray	1,175	2.2	1,345	2.5	1,199	2.3	1,040	2.0	1,506	2.9
North Ayrshire	3,752	4.6	4,103	5.0	3,803	4.6	3,305	4.0	4,862	5.9
North Lanarkshire	6,439	3.2	6,644	3.3	5,987	2.9	5,292	2.6	10,370	5.1
Orkney Islands	193	1.7	193	1.6	172	1.4	115	1.0	173	1.5
Perth & Kinross	1,557	1.9	1,662	2.0	1,493	1.8	1,022	1.2	2,037	2.4
Renfrewshire	3,283	3.1	3,221	3.0	3,049	2.9	2,654	2.5	4,517	4.3
Scottish Borders	1,143	1.8	1,243	1.9	1,093	1.7	954	1.5	2,013	3.1
Shetland Islands	254	1.9	270	2.0	199	1.5	128	1.0	191	1.4
South Ayrshire	2,195	3.3	2,373	3.6	2,054	3.1	1,697	2.6	2,815	4.3
South Lanarkshire	4,801	2.5	5,009	2.6	4,667	2.4	3,899	2.0	7,889	4.1
Stirling	1,119	2.1	1,173	2.2	1,075	2.0	882	1.6	1,840	3.4
West Dunbartonshire	2,596	4.5	2,724	4.7	2,552	4.4	2,027	3.5	3,377	5.9
West Lothian	2,482	2.4	2,682	2.5	2,589	2.4	2,334	2.2	4,478	4.2
North East Fife Parliamentary Constituency	907	1.8	926	1.8	851	1.6	650	1.3	1,093	2.1

Notes:
1. Caseloads are unrounded.
2. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
3. Figures include clerically held cases.
4. Claimant count data is published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:
100 per cent. count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems, and Population Estimates Unit, ONS

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* (i) Birmingham, (ii) Leeds, (iii) Glasgow, (iv) Sheffield, (v) Hull, (vi) Manchester, (vii) Bradford, (viii) Kirklees, (ix) Liverpool, (x) Bristol and (xi) London in (A) February 2008 and (B) February 2009. [270995]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* Available information is shown in the following table.

Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in February 2008 and February 2009 in the UK, local authorities and London (Government office region).

	February 2008	*February 2009*
United Kingdom	848,940	1,459,840
Local authorities		
Birmingham	33,275	45,655
Leeds	12,630	21,560
Glasgow City	14,405	20,275
Sheffield	8,465	14,015
Kingston upon Hull, City of	8,060	13,365

Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in February 2008 and February 2009 in the UK, local authorities and London (Government office region).

	February 2008	February 2009
Manchester	10,835	16,070
Bradford	9,240	14,320
Kirklees	5,980	10,960
Liverpool	15,210	20,055
Bristol, City of	5,605	9,770
Government office region		
London	132,540	189,930

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

Local Employment Partnerships

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget has been allocated for the organisation of the Local Employment Partnership Awards 2009; and how much *(a)* each of the 11 local award ceremonies and *(b)* the grand final are expected to cost. [261015]

Mr. McNulty: The Local Employment Partnerships Awards 2009 are an integral part of our strategy to support the delivery of LEPs across Great Britain. We want more employers to work through LEPs so that unemployed people have a better chance to get back to work.

The awards have been established to highlight the major benefits that LEP participation have brought to employers and partners and to celebrate the success of individual employees who have found sustainable work through the programme. So far more than 140,000 people have found jobs with more than 20,000 employers through LEPs.

An overall budget of £663,000 has been allocated to support this work. Final figures for the costs of the events will not be known until all 12 have been delivered.

Nuclear Power: AWE Burghfield

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements the Health and Safety Executive has made for consultation on proposed changes to the nuclear licensed site boundary at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield. [271289]

Jonathan Shaw: The licensing of nuclear installations is undertaken by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under the powers provided by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65). In accordance with the requirements of section 3(1 A) of NIA65, HSE consulted the Environment Agency about the application from the site licensee, AWE plc, for a replacement nuclear site licence for Burghfield. The new site licence was required to enable AWE plc to bring additional land into the licensed enclave to accommodate the construction of replacement facilities.

HSE also has a discretionary power under section 3(3) of the NI Act to direct a licence applicant to serve notice on certain public bodies local to the site in question. HSE concluded that public body notification was not required in respect of this application because it will not alter the nature of the activities undertaken in the licensed area, nor impact on the competence and capability of the licensee. Furthermore such bodies would be briefed on the relicensing via the AWE plc Local Liaison Committee (LLC) and that the development would be subject to the usual planning processes.

Pathways to Work

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the performance of *(a)* private sector providers and *(b)* in-house teams providing Pathways to Work schemes from the start of the contracts to the end of October 2008. [263405]

Mr. McNulty: Official Statistics on the performance of private sector providers delivering Pathways to Work Schemes will be available in summer 2009.

The Department does collect high level, aggregate management information on Provider Led Pathways performance. It is to be expected that in the normal course of managing their business, Departments will have available and use more recent very often incomplete data, from a range of sources, than are available from Official Statistics at a particular point in time, but this has not been quality assured and would give an incomplete picture of performance.

The Department publishes regular performance monitoring reports for Jobcentre Plus led Pathways. The latest published official statistics available show that up to September 2008, there had been 1,038,910 starts to the programme and the total number of job entries was 143,650 up to March 2008.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value was in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms of (i) the state pension, (ii) pension credit, (iii) income support and (iv) jobseeker's allowance for each year since 1997. [267576]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The available information on benefit rates up to 2008-09 has been placed in the Library. Real terms rates are presented in April 2008 prices.

Benefit rates which came into effect on 6 April 2009 are shown in the following table. It is not possible to present the real terms rates in April 2009 prices at this time as the April 2009 Retail Price and ROSSI index figures will not be published until 19 May 2009.

Benefit	*April 2009 rate (actual rate) (£)*
Basic State Pension (single pensioner)[1,2]	95.25
Basic State Pension (couples aged 60 and over)[1,3]	152.30
Pension Credit (single person aged 60 and over)[4]	130.00
Pension Credit (couples aged 60 and over)[4]	198.45
Income Support (single claimant aged 18 to 24)[5]	50.95
Income Support (single claimant aged 25+)[5]	64.30

Benefit	April 2009 rate (actual rate) (£)
Income Support (couple both aged 18+)[5]	100.95

[1] The rates quoted are standard rates for those with full qualifying contributions records.
[2] Man or woman under 80 on own insurance. £0.25 addition for over 80-year-olds.
[3] This is the rate where the wife's state pension is based on the husband's contributions. Where it is based on her own contributions, the state pension will be twice that of a single pensioner if both individuals are entitled to 100 per cent. state pensions. £0.25 addition for over 80-year-olds.
[4] For all pension ages. Excludes all premiums other than pensioner premium.
[5] The rates quoted are standard rates. There are also additional payments for dependent child(ren), disability, caring responsibilities, etc.
Note:
JSA rates are the same as those for income support.

Social Security Benefits: Asylum

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who successfully claimed asylum since 1997 have *(a)* claimed and *(b)* been granted benefits. [265345]

Mr. McNulty: Once a person has been granted leave to remain, they can apply for benefits but no record is kept of the fact that they had previously claimed asylum.

Swimming Pools: Safety

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive publishes on safety in municipal swimming pools. [271226]

Jonathan Shaw: The guidance on safety in swimming pools published by the Health and Safety Executive is "Managing health and safety in swimming pools - HSG179", which is available from HSE Books. This is supplemented by additional advice held on the entertainment and leisure industry pages on the HSE website.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 865, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional monetary value of such provision was in 2008-09. [271916]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

1. The Department for Work and Pensions allows the following office facilities for the use of its recognised trade unions:

A room, wherever possible, is made available for the use of the trade union side. Failing this, trade union representatives are allowed the use of private rooms where necessary, for example, to enable private discussions with individual union members.

The trade unions are provided with sufficient furniture e.g. desks, lockable pedestals and filing cabinets, to enable them to carry out their duties efficiently.

Trade union representatives are allowed the use of official telephones for union activities permitted within the DWP Employee Relations framework.

Trade union representatives are allowed the use of departmental personal computers, where available, for work in respect of their representational duties. They may also be allowed access to e-mail facilities.

The local union branch may have notice board facilities on official premises, where they are available.

Trade union representatives are allowed reasonable use of office services and provisions for essential trade union activities, provided it does not interfere with official work and they are not used excessively. This could include, for example, use of typists, the internal courier, facsimile machines, photocopiers and stationery.

2. The information requested on what the notional monetary value of such provision was in 2008-09 is not available.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 865W, on trade unions, which trade unions his Department's agencies recognise. [271917]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions and its Executive agencies, Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) recognise three trade unions as representing members of staff; the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), FDA and Prospect.

Winter Fuel Payments: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount paid to pensioner households in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in winter fuel payments in 2008-09. [271350]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Actual expenditure data are not yet available for 2008-09 and forecasts of benefit expenditure are not produced at constituency level. However, in 2007-08, expenditure on winter fuel payments in the parliamentary constituency of Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland was £3.5 million.

Notes:

1. Winter fuel payments are paid to people aged 60 and over.

2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question 248120 on the UK's membership of the Euro, tabled by the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on 12 January 2009. [270693]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 115W.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question 263741, on Woolworth, tabled by the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on 11 March 2009. [270694]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 119W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Review of Council Housing Finance to be completed; and if she will make a statement. [272222]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect the work of the review to conclude shortly and to make a statement over the summer.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what floor area space standards are expected of *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three bedroom homes in local authority high density housing schemes. [272224]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing" (PPS3) is clear on the need to achieve high quality new housing, including promoting appropriate designs and layouts, encouraging innovative approaches to help deliver high quality outcomes, and ensuring developments at all densities contribute positively to making places better for people.

As regards social housing the Government's new delivery body, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), is currently reviewing the benchmarks for high quality urban design, construction and environmental sustainability, including any space standards for new homes funded by the public sector.

In the meantime the HCA is continuing to operate under the regimes set in place by the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships. Under these, the Housing Corporation Design and Quality Strategy and Standards set out the requirements and recommendations for housing projects which receive Social Housing Grant, and the English Partnerships Housing Quality Indicators set out requirements for housing developments that receive funding from the property and regeneration programmes. Both sets of requirements include a space standard. Details are available through the internet. The relevant links are

http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/qualitystandards.htm

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.10783

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/design_quality_standards

Where local authorities build or acquire homes with funding from the HCA they will be expected to meet the relevant conditions of the grant, and compliance with development standards is one of these.

Derelict Land: Gardens

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1503-05W, on gardens, (1) how long she expects the *(a)* first and *(b)* second stage of her Department's review into the effect of development on gardens to take; and if she will make a statement; [272200]

(2) on what date her Department wrote to local planning authorities in England to request data on the number of planning permissions granted or refused for housing development within the cortilage of an existing house; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter. [272201]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the letter my Department wrote to all local planning authorities in England to request data for the review of evidence on 3 April 2009. A copy of the letter was placed in the library (reference DEP2009-1135) on 17 April 2009.

Eco-Towns

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of how many of the potential eco-towns sites which appeared on her Department's shortlist in April 2008 construction has commenced. [271580]

Margaret Beckett: No construction work related to eco-towns has commenced in those locations shortlisted as part of our programmes of consultation, which began in April 2008, and was pursued in more detail in November 2008. The consultation ended on 30 April and following consideration of all the responses we will publish the final Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement and list of locations with potential to be an eco-town. However, before any construction work related to eco-towns can commence individual schemes will need to submit planning applications, which will be for local authorities to determine through the local planning process.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what penalties may be imposed on *(a)* social and *(b)* private rented sector landlords who do not supply prospective tenants with an energy performance certificate for a property; and if she will make a statement. [270603]

Margaret Beckett: A fixed penalty of £200 is applicable to landlords that do not provide prospective tenants in either the social or private rented sectors with a valid Energy Performance Certificate.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of roll-out of energy performance certificates; and if she will make a statement. [271569]

Margaret Beckett: We have commissioned research to evaluate the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which will include an assessment of the effectiveness of the roll-out of Energy Performance Certificates. The research is due to be completed in October 2009.

Fire Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of costs of business rates on fire stations on the level of service provided by fire and rescue services; and if she will make a statement. [272563]

John Healey: No assessment has been made regarding the impact of business rates on fire stations and the level of service they provide.

Fire Services: Taunton

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of maintaining the Regional Fire Control Centre in Taunton was in each month since April 2008. [272562]

Mr. Khan: The cost of maintaining the regional Fire Control Centre in Taunton from April 2008 to December 2008 has been approximately £140,000 per month. We would expect up to final cut-over in the South West in October 2011, costs would remain at approximately the same level.

Fire Services: Warrington

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the FiReControl centre in Warrington *(a)* has cost to date and *(b)* is expected to cost in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [272370]

Mr. Khan: The running costs of the FiReControl centre in Warrington from practical completion on 1 July 2008 to the end of March 2009 is approximately £710,000. The expected running cost for the current financial year (April 2009 to March 2010) is £1,850,000. For each of the following four years the running cost of the building is expected to be approximately £2,000,000 per year.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the changes in average cost of a home information pack as a result of the changes to the regulations which became effective on 6 April 2009. [272112]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 911W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average price of a home information pack in each year since the packs were introduced. [272209]

Margaret Beckett: The cost of a home information pack (HIP) is set by the market and the Government have no role in this. However, industry feedback indicates that the average cost of a HIP has fallen from £300-£350 (excluding VAT) following their introduction in 2007 to £200-£300 (excluding VAT).

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* gifts, *(b)* losses and *(c)* special payments were reported to her Department as having been received by the (i) Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies and (ii) Tenant Services Authority in each of the last three years. [270576]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the last three years, it has not been a requirement under the terms of the management statements or framework documents of the Homes and Communities Agency, the Tenant Services Authority or their predecessors (English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation and the Academy for Sustainable Communities) to report to the Department gifts received. Instead the bodies have been required to maintain their own registers of gifts received.

It is unclear as to how an organisation might receive a loss, so it has not been possible to provide information on this issue.

The Housing Corporation received the following special payments in the last three years:

2006-07

Termination payment to contractor

Termination payment to administrator of Elonex plc

2007-08

No special payments.

Audited information for 2008-09 is not yet available, but will be made available in the respective organisations annual reports and accounts, all of which will be laid before Parliament.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what losses were incurred by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies as a result of legal claims being *(a)* waived and *(b)* abandoned in each of the last five years; [270609]

(2) what losses attributable to constructive losses the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies incurred in each of the last five years; [270610]

(3) what losses attributable to the writing off of accountable stores the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies incurred in each of the last five years; [270611]

(4) what losses attributable to overpayments of *(a)* salaries, *(b)* wages, *(c)* pensions and *(d)* allowances the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies incurred in each of the last five years. [270612]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the (investment arm of the) Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the agency from Communities and Local Government.

It is not possible to disaggregate losses for the investment arm of the Housing Corporation without incurring disproportionate costs.

For the Homes and Communities Agency, English Partnerships, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities the answers are:

There were no losses incurred as a result of legal claims being waived and abandoned in each of the last five years.

There were no losses incurred due to constructive losses in each of the last five years.

There were no losses incurred due to the writing off of accountable stores in each of the last five years.

There have been no losses as a result of overpayment of salaries, wages or allowances during the period stated. Since 1 April 2004 there have been unrecovered pensions to the value of £843.28 as a result of death of pensioners. This loss is met by the EP/HCA Pension Scheme and not the employer.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts were let by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies in which competitive tendering was not employed in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [270618]

Margaret Beckett: Since the Homes and Communities Agency's inception on 1 December 2008, it has let six contracts by single tender to a total value of £102,190. These were valued at £25,000, £24,950, £25,000, £19,500 and £7,740 and £8,156.

The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the (investment arm of the) Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

The Academy for Sustainable Communities entered into five contracts by single tender between 2006-07 and 2008-09 as follows:

2006-07:

One contract valued at £45,000

2007-08:

Two contracts valued at £66,304.60 and £4,261.60

2008-09 (to inception of HCA on 1 December 2008):

Two contracts valued at £74,000 and £94,400.

I am unable to provide details of single tender contracts awarded by English Partnerships as no central record was held. Similarly, I am unable to provide details of single tender actions undertaken by the investment arm of the Housing Corporation as it is not possible to differentiate between Housing Corporation spend on the basis of whether it related to that organisation's investment or regulation activities, the latter of which are now the responsibility of the Tenants Services Authority.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1111-12W, on Homes and Communities Agency: finance, how much of the additional funding for the Homes and Communities Agency will be brought forward from funding allocations for future years. [272479]

Margaret Beckett: None of the additional funding for the Homes and Communities Agency will be brought forward from funding allocations for future years.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the draft housing revenue account subsidy determination 2009-10 amending determination for 2009, what recent assessment her Department has made of the net cash loss to participating local authorities as a result of compensation based on guideline rents rather than actual average rent per property. [272416]

Mr. Iain Wright: No detailed assessment has been made: the exact details will depend both on rents in 2008-09 and what authorities had originally planned for in 2009-10. The latter data are not available. We expect to respond shortly to the consultation on the amending determination.

Housing: Rent Back

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to provide advice on buy and let back schemes to those home owners experiencing financial difficulties. [269994]

Margaret Beckett: We are a taking a range of actions to provide advice to homeowners who may be considering entering private sale and rent back (SRB) arrangements.

Last year we published a consumer advice leaflet with the National Homelessness Advice Service (NHAS), "Are you worried about your mortgage? Get advice now". The leaflet highlighted the risks associated with signing up to SRB schemes 'that appear too good to be true' and was widely disseminated throughout England via MPs' offices, local authorities and advice agencies. As part of the Mortgage Pre-Action Protocol the NHAS leaflet must be sent to homeowners threatened with repossession.

A revised leaflet was issued in January 2009 highlighting the Government's Mortgage Rescue scheme (MRS), which offers households a 'Government Mortgage to Rent' option. This provides greater protection to "vulnerable" households (families with dependent children, or those containing elderly, ill or disabled people, who can no longer afford their repayments and who would be legally entitled to homelessness assistance if repossessed) targeted by SRB companies by allowing households to sell their property at market value to a housing association and becoming tenants of the housing association—initially on a three-year assured shorthold tenancy—paying an intermediate rent.

We have worked closely with stakeholders to raise awareness among local authority officers of the need to ensure the risks associated with SRBs are well understood by all parties.

We have also published information about the need for households at risk of repossession to be aware of SRB schemes and seek advice from an independent adviser on the Direct Gov website as part of the Government's 'Real help now' campaign.

Housing: HomeBuy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average income has been of a *(a)* first-time buyer, *(b)* social tenant and *(c)* key worker taking part in the (i) MyChoiceHomeBuy, (ii) HomeBuy Direct and (iii) OwnHome initiative, since the inception of each initiative. [270620]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 216-17W.

The average household income figures provided for My Choice HomeBuy and Own Home Initiative are for 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedure is followed by developers wishing to withdraw a property from a Homebuy scheme. [270621]

Margaret Beckett: Where a new build property has been developed with grant for one of the HomeBuy schemes, a developer has to get consent to sell the property outside the affordable housing sector. For RSLs this requires an application to the TSA for a section 9 consent to dispose. This constitutes a relevant event and triggers grant recycling. For non-RSL investment partners (including private sector developers) where properties are retained by the developer on completion, the rentcharge requires that they seek consent from the HCA before selling. If such consent were given, under the rentcharge, grant would be repaid with a link to value, the calculation for which is set out in the rentcharge. Generally, where grant is paid to private sector developers, at build completion, ownership and management is transferred to an RSL, in which case the requirements outlined above in relation to RSLs would apply.

For developers who have signed up to sell homes as part of the HomeBuy Direct, schemes can be withdrawn from the scheme with the consent of the HCA. As HomeBuy Direct is currently configured, there is no grant to repay in these circumstances because grant is not paid until the property is sold.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* New Build Homebuy and *(b)* Open Market Homebuy completions there were in each region in each of the last three months. [270641]

Margaret Beckett: The number of new build HomeBuy and open market HomeBuy completions funded through the Homes and Communities Agency in the each of the last three months of 2008-09 is as follows. These figures are provisional.

	New build HomeBuy			*Open market HomeBuy*		
	January	*February*	*March*	*January*	*February*	*March*
East Midlands	43	30	53	33	20	32
East of England	20	48	43	94	77	143
London	2	27	240	190	178	200
North East	78	17	450	6	7	2
North West	17	30	126	25	44	34
South East	34	109	204	160	162	196
South West	28	186	919	88	58	51
West Midlands	152	191	747	43	28	40
Yorkshire and Humberside	56	39	330	45	31	29
National total	430	677	3,112	684	605	727

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Social Homebuy sales there were in each region in each of the last three months. [270689]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the provisional figures for Social HomeBuy sales in each of the last three months (January to March 2009) broken down by region.

	Sales in January to March 2009		
Region	*January*	*February*	*March*
North East	0	0	0
North West	1	0	1
Yorkshire and Humberside	1	0	0
East Midlands	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	1	0
Eastern	0	0	0
London	3	0	[1]5
South East	1	0	0
South West	0	0	0
England	6	1	6

[1] London figure in March includes two sales in local authority sector. Sales figures by registered social landlords (RSLs) are from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether HomeBuy scheme variants are in operation; and what the differences in eligibility, equity terms and scope between each scheme are. [272452]

Margaret Beckett: The information requested can be found in the leaflet 'CLG HomeBuy Factsheet', a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have applied for assistance under the *(a)* MyChoiceHomeBuy and *(b)* Ownhome scheme to date. [271627]

Margaret Beckett: To the end of March 2009 there were *(a)* 52,029 applications for MyChoiceHomeBuy and *(b)* 6,409 applications for Own Home.

Housing: Low Incomes

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the low-income households helped into home ownership in 2007-08 were resident in each local authority area. [271629]

Margaret Beckett: A table showing the number of homes purchased through affordable housing schemes in 2007-08, by local authority, has been deposited in the Library of the House.

These figures are taken from the low cost home ownership (LCHO) figures in the CLG affordable housing live table figures, and the number of right to buy (RTB) and preserved right to buy (PRTB) sales.

Affordable housing LCHO figures are collated from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS); and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns submitted to CLG

by local authorities. Figures showing the number of local authority right to buy sales are from P1B returns to CLG from local authorities. Figures showing the number of registered social landlord right to buy sales are from Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) from RSLs.

Not all affordable housing sales can be broken down to local authority level, so we have included a row for sales where the LA is not known. This includes 3,150 registered social landlord PRTB sales, which are collected at RSL level rather than at LA level, and as RSLs can operate in more than one LA it is not possible to count these figures at LA level.

Housing: Affordable Homes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average cost to the public purse of building a new home for social rent was in each of the last five years; [272210]

(2) what the average cost to the public purse of building a new affordable home was in each of the last five years. [272211]

Mr. Iain Wright: The national average amount of grant per unit paid through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme for social rent and intermediate affordable housing in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Grant per completion (£)
2005-06	
Intermediate	31,795
Rent	55,353
2006-07	
Intermediate	28,927
Rent	55,796
2007-08	
Intermediate	25,524
Rent	57,289
2008-09	
Intermediate	30,313
Rent	57,306

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* social homes and *(b)* affordable housing was judged to be of (i) average and (ii) poor design quality in the most recent study of the sector conducted by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. [272510]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Affordable Housing Survey conducted by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) did not differentiate between social and affordable housing. Instead it looked at affordable housing schemes which were either built by Registered Social Landlords or provided for them by market developers as part of planning agreements. 61 per cent. of those schemes tested were judged average and 21 per cent. poor as set out in the report of the survey. This can be found on the HCA's website:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

It should be noted however that the housing schemes that were assessed for this audit went through the planning process before our planning policy in PPS3 (November 2006) was issued which set out what is expected on housing design and before the Housing and Regeneration Act and Planning Act (both 2008) which put legislation in place to tackle poor quality design. We expect the future surveys to show increasing improvement as our policies have a chance to bed down and completed schemes reflect new HCA standards.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* social homes and *(b)* affordable housing was judged to be poor in its provision for adaptation, conversion and extension in the Homes and Communities Agency's most recent survey of affordable housing. [272516]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Affordable Housing survey conducted by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) did not differentiate between social and affordable housing. Instead it looked at affordable housing schemes which were either built by RSLs or provided for them by market developers as part of planning agreements.

The percentage of these judged as poor in their provision for adaptation, conversion and extension was 94 per cent. as set out in the report which can be found on the HCA's website:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

The reason for this is that a large proportion of schemes assessed involved apartments where the design did not offer the potential to enable them to be adapted for the future.

It should be noted however that the housing schemes that were assessed for this audit went through the planning process before our planning policy in PPS3 (November 2006) was issued which set out what is expected on housing design and before the Housing and Regeneration Act and Planning Act (both 2008) which put legislation in place to tackle poor quality design. We expect the future surveys to show increasing improvement as our policies have a chance to bed down and completed schemes reflect new HCA standards.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households purchased a home via the First Time Buyers Initiative in each region in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [272102]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of households who purchased a home through the First Time Buyers initiative in each of the last three years by region.

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
South West	86	162	35	283
North West	43	150	25	218

	2007	2008	2009	Total
Yorks and Humber	73	37	0	110
West Midlands	69	119	21	209
East England	15	77	1	93
North East	21	10	6	37
South East	177	265	39	481
London	160	217	20	397
Total	644	1,072	150	1,866

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1507W, on housing: low incomes, what the average price of a property purchased with support from the First Time Buyers Initiative has been in each year since the scheme's inception. [272105]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the average price of a property purchased through the First Time Buyers initiative in each year since its inception.

	£ Average property price
2006	220,000
2007	201,916
2008	177,139
2009[1]	163,008

[1] Figures for 2009 only available until end of February 2009.

Local Area Agreements

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* the level of progress achieved in the roll-out and *(b)* the effectiveness of the Local Area Agreement framework. [271574]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has commissioned a long-term evaluation of local area agreements (LAAs) and local strategic partnerships (LSPs). Early findings published late last year indicated that the new local performance framework has been broadly welcomed, though concluded that it was difficult to attribute improvements directly to the new framework at this early stage. A forthcoming report from the evaluation provides further evidence that the new LAAs are generating greater focus and improved partnership working at the local level.

The earlier report is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laalspevaluationcasestudies

The forthcoming report will be made available later this month at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Comprehensive area assessment, due to start reporting from November 2009, will include the first formal assessment of the progress areas are making against LAA targets. A review of local areas' initial efforts to prepare for LAA delivery was carried out by Government offices earlier this year indicated that the new framework was progressing well, with the vast majority of areas strengthening their partnership and delivery arrangements to enhance their ability to meet their new targets.

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local councils have not yet had their core strategies *(a)* submitted and *(b)* approved; and what the timetable is for such core strategies to be approved. [272428]

Mr. Iain Wright: Of 333 core strategies planned by local councils:

(a) 282 are yet to be submitted to the Secretary of State, and;

(b) 291 are yet to be approved.

According to Local Authority Local Development Schemes, all core strategies will be adopted by August 2012.

Local Government: Equal Pay

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was disbursed during the equal pay capitalisation round in 2008-09. [271636]

John Healey: Since 2006, the Government have issued over £1.1 billion in capitalisation directions to provide support for councils to deliver equal pay for thousands of employees. Equal pay capitalisation directions issued by the Government in 2008-09 totalled £472 million.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 877W, on corporate improvement boards, what Audit Commission Use of Resources score each local authority received in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; which local authorities have had their annual accounts qualified either in whole or in part in the last four years; and how much support each local authority has received for corporate or financial improvement purposes from their local regional improvement and efficiency partnership in each of the last two years. [272356]

John Healey: The following table shows Use of Resources each relevant local authority received in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008.

	Audit commission use of resources judgment		
Local authority	(a) 2006	(b) 2007	(c) 2008
Uttlesford	2	1	1
Thurrock	2	2	2
Dacorum	2	1	1
Great Yarmouth	1	1	2
Norwich City	1	1	2
Waveney	2	1	1
Wellingborough	3	2	2
Haringey	3	3	3
Liverpool	2	1	2
Mid Devon	1	1	2
Forest of Dean	2	2	1
Tewkesbury	2	2	2

Local authority	Audit commission use of resources judgment (a) 2006	(b) 2007	(c) 2008
Mendip	2	2	2
West Somerset	1	1	1
Stoke-on-Trent	2	2	3
Bromsgrove	2	2	2
Cornwall Fire and Rescue Authority	3	2	2

We do not hold information on which local authorities have its accounts qualified.

The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) are devolved partnerships of councils and other local services. Information on support each local authority has received for corporate or financial improvement purposes is not held centrally.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have received support under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [271467]

Margaret Beckett: As part of the monitoring arrangements for the Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme, headline data will be published on a monthly basis on the Department's website starting this month. We will be publishing headline data for January, February and March 2009 on 30 April 2009, as pre-announced on the UK National Statistics Publication Hub, after which local authority breakdowns can be made available. The date of this publication has been delayed from 21 April 2009 owing to unforeseen issues with data quality and validation.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many loans she expects to be provided under the Repossession Prevention Fund; and what the maximum loan value is under the scheme; [272213]

(2) what the monetary value of her Department's Repossession Prevention Fund will be in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [272214]

Margaret Beckett: The total value of the Repossession and Evictions Prevention Fund will be £20 million. This will be a one off payment for 2009-10 to local authorities in direct response to the current economic conditions. It will be administered through the Homelessness Revenue Grant programme, under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. This is an established process as CLG have already allocated over £150 million, of Homelessness Grant, over three years (2008-11), to all local authorities to support their homelessness strategies to tackle and prevent homelessness effectively.

The Fund will be used to provide loans of up to a maximum value of £5,000 to prevent repossession or eviction, helping at least 4,000 households to remain in their homes.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect of the Homeowner Mortgage Support scheme on the total level of mortgage debt. [272455]

Margaret Beckett: Homeowners Mortgage Support will enable eligible borrowers who suffer a temporary loss of income to cut their mortgage interest payments for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances. Before entering the scheme, borrowers must receive independent money advice. We have estimated the increase in mortgage debt arising as part of the government scheme to be around £200 million, based on assumptions explained in detail within the impact assessment published alongside the launch of the scheme. This figure can be compared with the Council of Mortgage Lenders' latest estimate of balances outstanding on lending secured against dwellings of £1,224,856 million as at February 2009.

Mortgages: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire took out mortgages in the last five years. [272157]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on actual numbers of mortgage taken out are available from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML). However they are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2218

The CML data on mortgage lending are no longer freely available from their website. For detailed time series information members of the public can request to subscribe to CML to obtain access to a restricted website.

New Deal for Communities

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the extent to which *(a)* the provision of guidance and *(b)* sharing good practice has contributed to the development of local sustainability plans in New Deal for Communities areas. [271639]

John Healey: It is too early to make an assessment of the contribution that guidance and shared good practice from the New Deal for Communities (NDC) programme is making to the development of local sustainability plans in NDC areas.

It was always the intention that the improvements to NDC residents would be delivered in a way that could be sustained beyond Government funding and into the long term. The Department has issued various guidance notes which relate to succession throughout the programme, most recently comprehensive succession guidance on 4 December 2008. This was launched at a conference attended by NDCs and local authorities, which was designed to assist them with preparing long term succession strategies to ensure that the benefits and improvements made to the areas can be sustained.

Non-Domestic Rates

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the Treasury and

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the implementation of measures to introduce automatic rate relief for small businesses. [271532]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government has had a number of discussions with the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Treasury on making small business rate relief automatic.

The Government are keen to explore ways in which we can promote, and improve the administration of, the existing small business rate relief scheme and increase its take up, including through automatic options. CLG officials will work with Treasury officials to see how the take up of the scheme can be improved.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to make payment of small business rate relief automatic for eligible businesses; and if she will make a statement. [272634]

John Healey: The Government are keen to explore ways in which we can promote, and improve the administration of, the existing small business rate relief scheme and increase its take up. CLG officials will work with Treasury officials to see how the take up of the scheme can be improved.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for each local planning authority to complete its core strategy; and what penalties will apply in the case of late completion. [272440]

Mr. Iain Wright: The individual timetable for the completion of each local authority core strategy is contained in its local development scheme, published on each local authority's website, which sets out all development plan documents and has been agreed by the Secretary of State. According to these local development schemes, all core strategies should be adopted by August 2012.

Although there are no direct penalties, local authorities will fail to receive the full grant allocation from the Government's Housing and Planning Delivery Grant if priority development plan documents set out in the local development scheme are not prepared in accordance with their agreed time scale.

Without up to date development plan documents, local authorities reduce their ability to direct the right type of development to the right place within their areas.

Regional Planning and Development

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made in her Department's Growth Points programme; and if she will make a statement. [271579]

Margaret Beckett: Through the Growth Points initiative the Government are responding positively to local partners who are keen to pursue sustainable growth. Allocations to growth point locations, announced in December 2008:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/growthareas/growth/fundallocations/

were based on their programmes of development and we encourage these documents to be made available through the local authorities concerned. We are now asking local authorities to work closely with CLG and the Homes and Communities Agency to implement their programmes of development and effective partnership working will be particularly important during the current economic conditions.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 76W, on regional planning and development, what timetable has been agreed for delivery of each of the remaining core strategies. [272335]

Mr. Iain Wright: Core strategies form part of the Local Development Framework and part of the development plan for each local planning authority in conjunction with the regional spatial strategy.

The individual timetable for the completion of each local authority core strategy is contained in its Local Development Scheme, published on each local authority's website, which sets out all development plan documents and has been agreed by the Secretary of State. According to these local development schemes, all core strategies should be adopted by August 2012.

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was spent on maintaining *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord properties which are (i) newer than 10 years, (ii) older than 10 years and (iii) older than 20 years in the last 12 months; [270623]

(2) what estimate she has made of the costs of maintaining housing owned by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords which is (i) up to 10, (ii) between 11 and 20 and (iii) over 20 years old; and if she will make a statement. [272514]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information for local authorities is not available in the format requested.

The Tenant Services Authority only hold information in relation to registered social landlords. The information for England in the Global Accounts for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, show:

Routine repairs—£1,422 million

Planned and major repairs—£2,701 million (this includes capitalised major repairs)

Total repairs—£4,123 million

Management cost spend—£1,913 million

The Tenant Services Authority do not hold or collect any data by property age.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance is given to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords on reducing the numbers of properties illegally sublet by tenants; [272205]

(2) what incentives are provided for *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords to reduce the numbers of properties illegally sublet by tenants; [272206]

(3) what estimate has been made of the number of social homes which were illegally sublet in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [272207]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not issued guidance to social landlords on unlawful sub-letting. Robust procedures to tackle unlawful sub-letting are a part of effective stock management. Successful possession action against unlawful sub-letters frees up stock and, therefore, enables social landlords to house more of those in greatest need.

The Department does not collect data on the numbers of social homes unlawfully sub-let.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department has on the age profile of housing owned by *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [272512]

Mr. Iain Wright: The English House Condition Survey includes an assessment of the age of dwellings that are owned by local authorities and registered social landlords. Table 1 provides estimates for 2006, the latest available from the survey.

Table 1: Dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords by age, 2006

Number (thousand)

Dwelling age	*Local authorities*	*Registered social landlords*	*All social landlords*
Pre-1919	86	182	270
1919 to 1964	344	185	496
1965 to 1964	912	474	1386
1965 to 1980	703	467	1170
1981 to 1990	111	208	319
Post 1990	20	354	374

Source:
English House Condition Survey, 2006

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of tenure for a tenant leaving a property in *(a)* the registered social landlord sector and *(b)* local authority housing was prior to departure in each year since 1997. [272515]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on the average length of tenure for tenants leaving a property are not available.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost was of maintaining a domestic dwelling owned by *(a)* a local authority and *(b)* a registered social landlord in each of the last five years. [272566]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information for local authorities is not available in the format requested.

The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) only hold information in relation to registered social landlords. The information for England in the global accounts from 2005 to 2008 is shown in the table.

Average costs per unit: England

£

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Maintenance (routine and planned)	848	863	870	901
Major repairs (including capitalised major repairs)	741	868	906	921
Total maintenance	1,589	1,731	1,784	1,822
Management	695	730	780	844

Note:
Figures exclude RSLs with less than a 1,000 units.

Source:
TSA Global Accounts

Information for 2004 is not provided because it is not directly comparable.

Repossession Orders: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have been repossessed in the last five years. [272156]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2108

The CML data on repossessions are no longer freely available from their website. For detailed time series information members of the public can request to subscribe to CML to obtain access to a restricted website.

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

The CML and FSA release slightly different figures. The CML data are for repossessions on first-charge mortgages only, including Buy-to-Let mortgages, as issued by their members. CML estimate that their lenders currently account for 98 per cent. of mortgage lending. The FSA data, as well as covering possessions on first-charge mortgages, cover possessions on second-charge loans by regulated firms (many second charge lenders are not regulated) but do not cover possessions as comprehensively on Buy-to-Let mortgages, as some of these are from unregulated firms. The overall effect of the differences is that the FSA's statistics on possessions are slightly higher.

Roads: Floods

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's plans are for storm drainage standards

for future road adoptions; what account those plans take of Environment Agency guidelines of a 100 year return-period storm standard; and if she will make a statement. [271534]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

Adoption of highways is a matter for each highway authority. The Government have no plans to set design and construction standards in relation to adoptions.

Tenant Services Authority

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the performance of the Office for Tenants and Social Landlords; and if she will make a statement. [271583]

Margaret Beckett: The Office for Tenants and Social Landlords, also called Tenant Services Authority (TSA), has issued a corporate plan with high level targets, agreed by Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government, and which should be reported on in its annual report. As the TSA has only been operational since December 2008, no formal performance review has yet taken place, but there have been several meetings between TSA and myself.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance her Department has issued to *(a)* police forces and *(b)* local authorities on the eviction of unauthorised Traveller camps. [272437]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government has produced the following guidance to assist the relevant authorities in dealing both with unauthorised camping (where the land is owned by others), and with unauthorised development (where the land is owned by the developer):

"Local Authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: a guide to responsibilities and powers": May 2007;

"Guide to effective use of enforcement powers, Part 1: unauthorised encampments" February 2006 (in conjunction with the Home Office); and

"Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers, Part 2: Unauthorised Development of Caravan Sites": October 2007.

All of these publications are available on the Communities and Local Government website:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingmanagement/care/gypsiesandtravellers

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the application process is for an apprenticeship under the Government apprenticeship scheme for 16 to 18 year-olds. [272502]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are various routes by which young people may enter an apprenticeship. Connexions services, and other agencies providing information, advice and guidance, refer young people to training providers and employers offering suitable apprenticeship opportunities. Young people may also apply directly to training providers and employers. From the beginning of this year the national apprenticeship on-line system for vacancy matching has been operating, providing a free service for employers and providers to advertise apprenticeship vacancies, and allowing potential apprentices to register and apply for vacancies. The National apprenticeship Service, launched on 1 April 2009, will provide an end-to-end service to promote and deliver apprenticeships for employers and individuals, including young people.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the role and responsibilities are of local colleges in delivery of the apprenticeship programme for 16 to 18 year-olds. [272677]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Further education colleges are important delivery partners in achieving our ambitions for 16 to 18-year-old apprentices. Where a local college is contracted by the Learning and Skills Council to deliver the apprenticeship programme they, along with other training providers, work with employers and their apprentices to deliver the training both on the job and at the college. The college will ensure the young person receives the training, work experience and personal support required to achieve the apprenticeship framework—the detail of which is determined by Sector Skills Councils or Standard Setting Bodies in conjunction with employers in their sector. Colleges may also be involved in delivering components of apprenticeship frameworks on behalf of other training providers and employers.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to publicise the apprenticeship programme for 16 to 18 year-olds in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* Cheshire; and if he will make a statement. [272678]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Local Connexions services and other information, advice and guidance agencies publicise the apprenticeships programme across the whole country, covering both urban and rural areas, including Cheshire. Our new national apprenticeship on-line system for vacancy matching provides access to apprenticeship vacancies for all potential apprentices. The national advertising campaign, fronted by Sir Alan Sugar, ran successfully in February and March, generating over 4,000 employer leads and increasing visitors to the apprenticeships website to 100,000 a week.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill currently before Parliament will place a duty on the Chief Executive of the National apprenticeship Service (NAS) to promote apprenticeships to employers and apprentices, and we would expect rural areas to be covered by this commitment. We are also working with the Commission for Rural Communities to research particular issues around increasing the number of apprenticeship places in rural areas.

The NAS team for Cheshire are working with employers across the county to develop apprenticeship opportunities, and work with Connexions and other agencies to ensure that young people have the information and support they need to access them.

Children: Care Homes

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors he took into account in making the recent decision to decommission beds at local authority secure children's homes. [272687]

Beverley Hughes: The secure children's homes contract decisions followed a joint tendering exercise by the Youth Justice Board and the Department for Children Schools and Families. New contracts were offered to nine homes following a detailed evaluation, consisting of an assessment of the quality of the bids received and a financial assessment, based on the submitted prices. The required number of beds in each region, value for money, and overall affordability were factors in the decision-making process.

Education: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what role *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* sub-regional groups of local authorities, *(c)* Government offices of the regions, *(d)* regional planning groups, *(e)* the Young People's Learning Agency, *(f)* regional development agencies and *(g)* his Department will have in (i) funding and (ii) commissioning education and training required for 16 to 19-year-olds in (A) schools, (B) academies, (C) sixth-form colleges and (D) further education colleges. [272552]

Jim Knight: Our plans for the roles of these parties in the funding and commissioning process is set out in the "Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver (March 2008)" White Paper. Implementation of those plans is subject to the passage of the legislation now before the House.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which sub-regional groups of local authorities he expects to provide funding for 16 to 19 education from April 2010; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the arrangements established by each sub-regional group for such funding. [272625]

Jim Knight: As part of the transfer of responsibilities from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities, the Department asked for proposals for sub-regional groupings by October 2008. Local authorities developed those further and submitted proposals in February 2009 to a national panel, involving the Local Government Association, Association of Directors of Childrens Services, Association of Colleges, Association of Learning Providers, Government Office, LSC and DCSF. A total of 43 proposals have now been considered by the national panel and demonstrate how well local authorities are respondi[illegible]e plans to devolve commissioning for 16-19 provision to them. The sub-regional groupings are intended to plan the commissioning of provision with individual local authorities responsible for the funding. A list of the sub-regional groupings is set out as follows.

The conclusions of the national panel are being considered by Ministers at the moment, although there are a number of themes such as the need to strengthen the involvement of providers in the process. A letter will be issued to each sub-regional grouping in May which will indicate the areas they should continue to develop and what further evidence the Secretary of State will be seeking to ensure their competence to take on this critical role by April 2010.

Sub-regional Group Proposals

Following the National Panel in April 2009, proposals were received from 43 sub-regional groups:

North East

Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton on Tees

Durham

Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland South Tyneside and Sunderland

South West

Bath and NE Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole

Devon, Plymouth and Torbay

Gloucestershire

Somerset

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Swindon and Wiltshire

East Midlands

Northamptonshire

Leicester and Leicestershire

Derby and Derbyshire

Lincolnshire and Rutland

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire

North West

Cumbria

Cheshire and Warrington

Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan

Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helen's and Wirral

Blackburn with Darwen

East of England

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Peterborough and Suffolk

Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Luton

Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock

London

London

South East

Milton Keynes

East Sussex

Buckinghamshire

Brighton and Hove

West Sussex

Surrey

Oxfordshire

Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton

Kent and Medway

Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham

West Midlands

Herefordshire, Shropshire Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire

Birmingham Solihull

Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton

Coventry and Warwickshire

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

Yorkshire and Humberside

West Yorks: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield

North and East Yorks: East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull, North Yorkshire and York

South Yorks: Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield

NE and N Lines: North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire

Educational Psychology: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what consideration he gave to continuing the top-slicing of funding for the training of educational psychologists in the annual revenue support grant; and if he will make a statement; [272607]

(2) what estimate he has made of the funding to be available to local authorities for training educational psychologists in each year from 2009-10 to 2012-13. [272608]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The continued use of top slice of the revenue support grant (RSG) for local authorities, as a means of funding the entry training of educational psychologists (EPs), was one of the options considered by a group of interested parties, including members drawn from the Local Government Association (LGA), EP professional interests and training providers. The LGA, however, decided that it no longer wished to use RSG top slice for that purpose. The effect of this recommendation was that the funds were redistributed to local authorities through the formula grant system administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

As formula grant is an un-hypothecated block grant it is not possible to identify amounts within it provided for a particular purpose. The decision as to how much of its budget an individual local authority might wish to earmark to a particular activity, such as support for the training costs of trainee EPs, is a matter for each local authority and not something on which this Department collects information.

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is working with interested parties to develop a long-term and sustainable, employer-led funding and entry training scheme for EPs, while administering the current training arrangements. To this end, the CWDC will continue to seek the views and engagement of all key stakeholders through its Educational Psychology National Forum, and to carefully examine options for future funding, while working with local authorities to secure their support for the current subscription scheme.

The CWDC has commissioned a work force development model to help future planning. This will be used to help decide the number of training places needed nationally and regionally for the 2010/11 intake of students.

Further investigation into the role of EPs in the children's work force of the future is also being commissioned to inform planning.

Further Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funds his Department has allocated to *(a)* further education and *(b)* sixth form colleges to support capital building projects in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and when such funds will become available. [268454]

Jim Knight: The Department has responsibility for the 16-19 capital programmes which fund building projects for additional places for 16 to 19-year-olds in expanded and new school sixth forms and new 16-19 provision in schools and colleges resulting from 16-19 competitions. The 16-19 capital budget is (i) £210 million in 2008-09 (ii) £210 million in 2009-10 and (iii) £240 million in 2010-11.

We have also made £53 million available in 2009-10 and 2010-11 for exemplar 14-19 capital projects in schools and colleges to support delivery of diplomas and will announce the projects to be funded in the next few weeks.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Manpower

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff will transfer from the Learning and Skills Council in 2010 to *(a)* each local authority in England and *(b)* each regional office of the Young People's Learning Agency. [272553]

Jim Knight: We expect, subject to the passage of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, to transfer some 950 posts to transfer to local authorities from the Learning and Skills Council in April 2010. A further 500 posts will transfer to the Young People's Learning Agency, with approximately 300 posts in the nine English regions. A breakdown of the number of posts by local authority is set out in the following table, together with the regional figures for YPLA. The precise number of staff will be finalised as they are matched to a suitable post in a region.

Number of posts transferring from the LSC to each local authority and region

	LA/SRG	*Total LA posts (FTE)*	*Total YPLA posts (FTE)*
East of England	Central Bedfordshire	8	–
	Bedford Borough	3	–
	Hertfordshire	9	–
	Luton	5	–
	Essex	13	–
	Southend	5	–
	Thurrock	5	–
	Cambridgeshire	8	–
	Norfolk	12	–
	Peterborough	5	–
	Suffolk	9	–
East of England total		78	28

Number of posts transferring from the LSC to each local authority and region

	LA/SRG	Total LA posts (FTE)	Total YPLA posts (FTE)
East Midlands	Leicester	6	—
	Leicestershire	9	—
	Northamptonshire	8	—
	Nottingham	6	—
	County of Nottingham	9	—
	Derby	5	—
	Derbyshire	9	—
	Lincolnshire	9	—
	Rutland	2	—
East Midlands total		63	27
Greater London	Barking and Dagenham	5	—
	Barnet	5	—
	Bexley	5	—
	Brent	5	—
	Bromley	5	—
	Camden	5	—
	City of London	0	—
	Croydon	5	—
	Ealing	5	—
	Enfield	5	—
	Greenwich	5	—
	Hackney	5	—
	Hammersmith and Fulham	5	—
	Haringey	5	—
	Harrow	5	—
	Havering	5	—
	Hillingdon	5	—
	Hounslow	5	—
	Islington	5	—
	Kensington and Chelsea	5	—
	Kingston upon Thames	5	—
	Lambeth	5	—
	Lewisham	5	—
	Merton	5	—
	Newham	5	—
	Redbridge	5	—
	Richmond upon Thames	5	—
	Southwark	5	—
	Sutton	5	—
	Tower Hamlets	5	—
	Waltham Forest	5	—
	Wandsworth	5	—
	Westminster	5	—
	SRG	12	—
Greater London total		172	41
North East	County Durham	8	—
	Darlington	5	—
	Hartlepool	5	—
	Middlesbrough	6	—
	Redcar and Cleveland	5	—
	Stockton on Tees	6	—
	Gateshead	5	—
	Newcastle	7	—
	North Tyneside	5	—
	Northumberland	6	—
	South Tyneside	5	—
	Sunderland	6	—
North East total		69	26
North West	Bolton	5	—
	Bury	5	—
	Manchester	8	—
	Salford	6	—
	Oldham	5	—
	Rochdale	5	—
	Stockport	7	—
	Tameside	5	—
	Trafford	5	—
	Wigan	6	—
	Cumbria	10	—
	Halton	5	—
	Knowsley	5	—
	Liverpool	9	—
	Sefton	6	—
	St. Helens	5	—
	Wirral	6	—
	Blackburn with Darwen	5	—
	Blackpool	5	—
	Lancashire	11	—
	Cheshire East	5	—
	Cheshire West	4	—
	Warrington	5	—
North West total		138	38
South East	Bracknell Forest	5	—
	Reading	4	—
	Slough	5	—
	West Berkshire	5	—
	Windsor and Maidenhead	5	—
	Wokingham	4	—
	Brighton and Hove	7	—
	Buckinghamshire	7	—
	East Sussex	8	—
	Hampshire	16	—
	Isle of Wight	5	—
	Portsmouth	5	—
	Southampton	6	—
	Kent	13	—
	Medway	5	—

Number of posts transferring from the LSC to each local authority and region

	LA/SRG	Total LA posts (FTE)	Total YPLA posts (FTE)
	Milton Keynes	5	—
	Oxfordshire	8	—
	Surrey	13	—
	West Sussex	9	—
South East total		135	39
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	5	—
	Bristol	5	—
	North Somerset	5	—
	South Gloucestershire	5	—
	Bournemouth	4	—
	Dorset	6	—
	Poole	5	—
	Cornwall	9	—
	Isles of Scilly	1	—
	Devon	10	—
	Plymouth	5	—
	Torbay	5	—
	Gloucestershire	10	—
	Somerset	9	—
	Swindon	6	—
	Wiltshire	8	—
South West total		98	33
West Midlands	Birmingham	13	—
	Solihull	5	—
	Coventry	7	—
	Warwickshire	8	—
	Dudley	7	—
	Sandwell	5	—
	Walsall	5	—
	Wolverhampton	5	—
	Herefordshire	6	—
	Shropshire	8	—
	Telford and Wrekin	5	—
	Worcestershire	9	—
	Staffordshire	11	—
	Stoke-on-Trent	6	—
West Midlands total		100	31
Yorkshire and The Humber	Barnsley	5	—
	Doncaster	5	—
	Rotherham	6	—
	Sheffield	6	—
	Bradford	7	—
	Calderdale	5	—
	Kirklees	6	—
	Leeds	14	—
	Wakefield	6	—

Number of posts transferring from the LSC to each local authority and region

	LA/SRG	Total LA posts (FTE)	Total YPLA posts (FTE)
	York	5	—
	North Yorkshire	11	—
	East Riding of Yorkshire	6	—
	Kingston upon Hull	6	—
	North East Lincolnshire	5	—
	North Lincolnshire	5	—
Yorkshire and The Humber total		98	30

Pre-School Education: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the *(a)* overall cost of introducing the Early Years Foundation Stage and *(b)* cost of monitoring the 69 learning goals in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [272554]

Beverley Hughes: The EYFS Framework was launched on 13 March 2007 and became a statutory requirement from September 2008. The cost of developing, designing and printing the original Early Years Foundation Stage statutory guidance pack for providers was £610,000. The cost of the information and communications activity surrounding the launch of the EYFS was £245,000 which included communications to raise awareness, launch events, leaflets to parents, surveys exercises and media activities.

The Department funded Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) training and development in schools through the School's Standard Fund. The level of funding provided was £5 million in 2007-08 and £7.9 million in 2008-09.

EYFS training and development in the private, voluntary and independent sector is funded through the General Sure Start Grant (GSSG). We topped up this funding during 2007-08 with an additional £7 million exclusively for the level 3 certificate in EYFS. At the same time we enabled greater flexibility of the Transformation Fund, which is designed to raise the level of professional qualifications in the early years workforce, to enable further EYFS training for the private, voluntary and independent sector. Because of the way we fund local authorities through these broad grants it is not possible to provide a breakdown of how much was spent specifically on EYFS training per se.

The Department funded QCA a total of £485,000 in 2007-08 and £888,000 in 2008-09 to provide guidance and materials, such as the EYFSP handbook and video exemplifications to support practitioners to monitor each child's achievements against the learning goals in the EYFS profile. This funding also includes the range of activities and support that QCA provides to local authorities, including accredited training and to make sure practitioner judgements are moderated and that the data are secure. We also funded QCA a total of £290,000 in 2008-09 to process and manage applications for exemptions from the EYFS learning and development requirements.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding has been allocated to the extension of the entitlement to free early education to all two year-olds; [272596]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of extending entitlement to free early education to all parents with children of two years of age additional to the funding allocated to the extension of that entitlement to the parents of the 15 per cent. the most disadvantaged two year-olds in each local authority. [272597]

Beverley Hughes: We are extending a pilot, offering free early learning and childcare to 15 per cent. of the most disadvantaged two year olds in every local authority, over the next two years.

Funding has been allocated until March 2011 to support this.

Decisions regarding the pace and scale of further rollout will be taken as part of the next spending review.

Schools: Knives

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many appeals against decisions of schools to *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently exclude children for carrying a knife have been upheld in each of the last five years; [272963]

(2) how many successful appeals have been lodged in respect of children *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently from schools for violent behaviour in the last five years. [272865]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is no process for a parent or pupil to appeal a head teacher's decision on a fixed period exclusion (suspension), aside from a review by the governing body of certain fixed period exclusions. Claims alleging disability discrimination in respect of fixed period exclusions may be made to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability). Information on such claims is not collected by my Department.

Information on the number of appeals against permanent exclusion (expulsion) is collected centrally, but this is not broken down by the reason for exclusion.

Departmental guidance on exclusions clearly sets out the circumstances and procedures that should be followed and the Government's guidance to independent appeals panels emphasises that exclusions should not be overturned without good reason. In 2006/07, 970 appeals were heard by panels, with only 100 pupils reinstated. These figures must be seen in the context of the total number of 8,680 permanent exclusions for that year. It means that just 1.2 per cent. of permanently excluded pupils were reinstated.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mainstream secondary schools were attended by pupils with statements of special educational need in each year since 1997. [271480]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the following table.

State-funded secondary schools[1]: Number of schools attended by pupils with statements of special educational need[2], as at January each year[3], in England

	All schools	Schools with pupils with statements of SEN
1997	3,584	3,463
1998	3,582	3,486
1999	3,575	3,477
2000	3,565	3,471
2001[4]	3,496	3,426
2002	3,471	3,371
2003	3,454	3,372
2004	3,435	3,369
2005	3,416	3,360
2006	3,405	3,356
2007	3,399	3,344
2008	3,383	3,322

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Solely registered pupils only.
[3] From 2002, data may not be comparable with previous years, as collection was changed from school level, to pupil level.
[4] Estimates have been made for January 2001 because the data for SEN are known to be incomplete.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of adult education courses available in England in each year since 1997. [264845]

Mr. Simon: Information on the number of different courses funded in a given year is not collected. FE colleges and providers are given indicative budgets based on the expected delivery of an overall volume of learning. The actual numbers and types of courses delivered by a college or provider will depend on demand. The Statistical First Release (SFR) "Post-16 Education: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held" (March 2009) provides information on the number of LSC-funded learners; the SFR can be found at the following link:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrmar09

Adults learn on different kinds of courses, ranging from unaccredited informal adult learning for personal enjoyment to vocational training courses that lead to recognised qualifications. In 2007/08, there were 3,278,000 adults learners participating in LSC-funded further education (made up of FE colleges including Learn Direct, adult and community learning, work-based learning and Train to Gain).

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether building projects that come within the Adult Safeguarded Learning budget are safeguarded until the end of the project; and whether such budgets are within the scope of the review of further education capital funding. [270336]

Mr. Simon: Capital projects that are already underway and funded from within the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Adult Safeguarded Learning budget are not subject

to change. These projects will proceed and continue to be supported by the LSC as planned, in line with agreed terms and conditions and LSC procedures.

The work that the LSC is undertaking with the sector on prioritisation will not include projects funded through the Adult Safeguarded Learning capital budget.

Apprentices

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on the effects of levels of availability of apprenticeship places on the ability of students to complete courses of study; and if he will make a statement. [265744]

Mr. Simon: Ministers and officials have received a number of representations about the problems training providers have experienced in finding work placements for apprentices to enable them to complete their apprenticeship framework. The construction industry is one sector where problems have been most acute and we have worked with employers, trade unions and sectoral bodies through the construction taskforce to identify measures to help providers, employers and apprentices. Most notably we have, together with ConstructionSkills established a matching service to help those apprentices in the construction sector at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. We are currently working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to explore how this approach might be extended to other sectors.

We are also taking steps to encourage employers to continue to support training and apprenticeships through the £175 billion a year Government spend on procuring goods and services. Government have made a commitment to routinely consider skills issues and promote training opportunities through their procurements. In construction, Departments and Agencies have made a specific commitment to consider the case for including a requirement that a proportion of the project workforce is apprentices when letting new construction contracts. We are looking to build on this approach in other major areas of spend, including IT.

On 17 April, the Department published new guidance, jointly developed with the Office of Government Commerce, to support Departments and agencies in implementing these commitments.

The £140 million package announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in January for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship training places will help fund new provision in both the public and private sectors, and will extend the opportunities available to people facing redundancy. We have also developed some flexibilities to help apprentices who have been made redundant. Redundant apprentices can now continue their training with a provider for up to six months while they and their provider look for an alternative employer. The National Apprenticeship Service has provided revised guidance about access to EMA and hardship funds which is already available. If a redundant apprentice is close to completing their framework and has evidence of the relevant employer experience, we expect providers, Sector Skills Councils and awarding bodies to be considerate to their individual circumstances in order to support them in completing their course of study.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the final report of the UK Skills Commission's inquiry into apprenticeships published in March 2009. [271765]

Mr. Simon: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners have welcomed the Skills Commission report on Apprenticeships at its launch on 18 March 2009.

We welcome this constructive contribution to the development of the Government's Apprenticeship Programme in England, and the emphasis it places on the value of work-based learning. We expect to make a formal response to the recommendations set out in the report in June, which will allow us to take into account the responses to the consultation on the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE).

Apprentices: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding his Department is providing for apprenticeships in Coventry in 2009-10. [272029]

Mr. Simon: Funding for 2009/10 has not yet been allocated to training providers and financial information of this type is not available at constituency level.

Since 2001 we have invested £6.4 billion in the apprenticeship programme and we will continue to build on this investment. We are increasing funding for apprenticeships in England in 2009-10 to over £1 billion. In January my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package to provide 35,000 extra apprenticeship places in the coming year.

Apprentices: Energy

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to provide apprenticeships in the energy sector. [270833]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children Schools and Families currently fund apprenticeships in a number of energy related occupations in the gas, electricity and nuclear industries in England. In 2007-08 900 young people started an apprenticeship in the energy sector. We are taking a wide range of steps to encourage more employers to offer high quality places in all sectors of the economy. We also believe apprenticeships can play a key role in our response to the current economic downturn. Earlier in the year my right hon. friend the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package to provide an extra 35,000 apprenticeship places over the coming year in both the public and private sectors to help strengthen the country's competitiveness.

In January the new online apprenticeship vacancy matching service for employers and potential apprentices went live. The first chief executive of the new National Apprenticeship Service took up post in February and the National Apprenticeship Service was fully functional from 1 April 2009 with a remit to expand apprenticeships

and provide a single point of contact for employers and apprentices. To raise awareness and encourage more employers to take on or offer more apprenticeships a national advertising campaign fronted by Sir Alan Sugar ran in February and March.

Our New Opportunities White Paper published in January announced the Government's commitment to extend group training associations; ensure all apprentices have clear progression routes; and commits to work towards an entitlement to an apprenticeship for all young people leaving care. Looking to the future, we have set ambitious targets for the growth of the Apprenticeships programme. Apprenticeships provisions are being taken forward as part of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, including provisions to ensure that an apprenticeship place is available for all suitably qualified young people by 2013.

Apprentices: Expenditure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on apprenticeships for 16 to 18 year olds in *(a)* Cheshire and *(b)* England in the last 12 months. [272617]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

For apprenticeships for 16 to 18-year-olds in 2008-09, £12.4 million has been allocated to training providers contracted to the LSC in the Cheshire and Warrington area. In 2007-08, the latest financial year for which spend information is available, £637 million was spent on apprenticeships for young people in England. Total funding for apprenticeships in England is planned to increase to over £1 billion in 2009-10. Earlier in the year my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package to provide 35,000 extra apprenticeship places in the coming year.

Basic Skills: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding his Department is providing for adults' skills development in Coventry in 2009-10. [272031]

Mr. Simon: The Department does not hold this 2009-10 budget allocation at a regional or local level. The LSC makes decisions about allocations of funding to specific areas based on strategic discussions with FE Colleges and providers, partners and other organisations. This ensures that the needs of the local communities are met and that the activity delivered supports key priorities and targets. Geoffrey Russell, the Council's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Friend with further information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on what date he received a copy of the report commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council's Director of Property and Infrastructure on capital budgets in the further education sector which was published on 11 February 2008. [269963]

Mr. Simon: The report commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Director of Property and Infrastructure on capital budgets in the further education sector was an LSC internal report.

The report was not published and was not seen by the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many projects delayed by the Learning and Skills Council's moratorium on capital spending for further education colleges he expects to be re-tendered as the original tender will have become invalid. [270787]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to records held by the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of capital projects in further education colleges were at the time of the announcement of the Learning and Skills Council's moratorium on capital spending for further education colleges were at post-tender stage with a selected contractor; and what assessment has been made of the merits of allowing projects which had reached this stage of development to proceed notwithstanding the moratorium. [270788]

Mr. Simon: Budget 2009 announced that an additional £300 million of capital funding will be made available in the current spending review period. This will allow us to take forward a limited number of the most urgent and greatest need projects during this spending review, although the precise number will depend on the projects chosen. In order to determine which projects will be funded, the LSC are consulting with the sector on prioritisation criteria and they have established a reference panel of college principals convened by the Association of College to inform the approach for prioritising schemes.

As the information requested for the first part of your question, regarding college projects at the post-tender stage, pertains to records held by the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the costs incurred by those colleges bidding for contracts which have been affected by delays caused by the Learning and Skills Council's moratorium on capital spending for further education colleges. [270789]

Mr. Simon: We recognise that some colleges have incurred significant costs particularly, but not exclusively, where the project is at an advanced stage of development.

The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) new acting Chief Executive, Geoff Russell, has appointed an external team to review the current financial data held by the

LSC, as well as a team of property specialists to assist the LSC to ensure information held about individual projects is accurate, comprehensive and a sound basis for taking future decisions. The LSC will work with each college, with the help of independent property consultants, to assess how the longer term value of expenditures that can be incurred, as well as to understand the nature and extent of any liabilities.

Through its normal financial intervention process, the LSC will ensure that no college is unable to meets its financial obligations as a result of decisions on capital projects. Once this work by the property specialists has been completed, and there is a full analysis of the costs incurred, then the contribution that can be made to such costs from the LSC will be confirmed. The LSC plan to be able to confirm this to colleges at the beginning of June.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of its suppliers his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in each of the last five months. [272253]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The percentage of invoices from suppliers settled by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills within 10 days of receipt, in the last five months, is shown in the following table:

	Percentage
November 2008	90
December 2008	96
January 2009	91
February 2009	96
March 2009	95

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects the outcomes of his Department's review of its relationship with its non-departmental public bodies to be published; and if he will make a statement. [269960]

Mr. Simon: Following the Foster report on the LSC capital programme, the Secretary of State has asked the Permanent Secretary to carry out a review of the Department's relationships with its non departmental public bodies. The aim of the review is to ensure that there is clarity about accountability and responsibility in these relationships. I expect the Permanent Secretary to complete his work by the end of May. The Secretary of State will then consider appropriate next steps.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who the members of the Learning and Skills Council's Prioritisation Working Group are; and if he will make a statement. [269956]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council's Prioritisation Working Group was a group that the LSC established in spring 2008, with the specific task of considering how capital projects might be prioritised at regional and national level. As this is a group established by the LSC, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting chief executive of the LSC, to write to the hon. Member with the information he has requested.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which of his Department's officials *(a)* are members of and *(b)* observers on (i) the Prioritisation Working Group, (ii) the Capital Policy Group and (iii) the Finance and Resource Board; and if he will make a statement. [269964]

Mr. Simon: The Prioritisation Working Group was a Learning and Skills Council (LSC) group, established in spring 2008 with the specific task of considering how capital projects might be prioritised at regional and national level. The Department was not represented on this group when it was first formed. However, the group was re-established in autumn 2008 and officials from the Department were invited as observers to this group. This invitation has been taken up by a number of officials.

The Capital Policy Group was an LSC working group on developing FE capital policy. The Team Leader of the Further Education Infrastructure Team, from the Department, was an observer on this group.

The Department has observer status on the Learning and Skills Council's Finance and Resources Board. Usually represented by the Deputy Director in the Further Education Finance and Performance Division.

North Devon College

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of progress in the construction projects at North Devon College. [271122]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Overseas Students: Assessments

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students were awarded qualifications by further education colleges not on the UK Border Agency's accreditation list in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [269743]

Mr. Simon: The UK Border Agency's accreditation list lists all organisations that have been approved by the UK Border Agency to employ migrants or sponsor students. On 31 March 2009, the register of sponsors replaced the Register of Education and Training Providers

maintained by the Department for Education and Skills and then the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families do collect and publish information on the achievement of accredited qualifications, including those delivered by both approved and non-approved FE colleges. However, coverage and identification of the delivery of these qualifications is not robust enough to derive reliable statistics.

Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the new research priorities referred to in Table 6.1 of the Budget 2009 Red Book are; and what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to consult the research community on the identification of these priorities. [272093]

Mr. Lammy: The priorities referred to in Table 6.1 of the Budget 2009 Red Book relate to the spending of £118 million of efficiency savings that the Research Councils achieved in 2008-09. In accordance with the Haldane Principle, detailed priorities are for the Research Councils, rather than DIUS, to decide. The research priorities for each Research Council can be found in their individual delivery plans.

Research Councils

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects the research councils to publish their plans for refocusing research priorities; and whether he plans to reduce commitments to existing research programmes to fund new priorities. [272092]

Mr. Lammy: The Research Councils are currently in the process of assessing how their spending on research might be focused to give the best value from our investment. The details of this process, including the timetable of any publications, are for the Research Councils to decide.

Research Councils: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what instructions his Department has issued to the research councils on identifying the value-for-money savings identified in the 2009 Budget; [272096]

(2) how the value-for-money savings identified in the 2009 Budget will be shared between the research councils; and from which areas of their budgets he expects the research councils to make savings. [272094]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has given no instructions to the Research Councils. The Research Councils have told us that they have revised their plans for value-for-money efficiencies for CSR07 which has resulted in the collective target for 2010/11 increasing from £243 million to £349 million.

The details of how these targets will be achieved are a matter for the Research Councils and the outcomes will be reported in the normal manner in the departmental annual report.

Training: Veterinary Medicine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was made available to local learning and skills councils for the provision of veterinary nurse training in each of the last five years. [272895]

Mr. Simon: Funding for specific learning aims is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for what reasons the Statistical First Release on further education, DS/SFR1, published in December 2008, does not include figures for the number of learners on Learning and Skills Council funded work-based learning and Train to Gain provision at the end of each quarter by programme. [263890]

Mr. Simon: The number of learners was previously provided alongside starts and completions. This can present a misleading picture because the figures cannot be immediately related to each other in the same year. This is particularly true where the number of starts changes significantly because there is a time lag before completions increase as seen in Train to Gain over the last few years. Therefore the Statistical First Release (SFR), DS/SFR1, published in December 2008, focuses on the most instructive and transparent measures of starts and completion rates. Starts provide insight on growth in the programme and completion rates demonstrate the quality of delivery in the system.

The December SFR was the first step in addressing the findings of the review of "Post-16 Learner Statistical First Releases". It is planned that the SFR will develop over the coming year by integrating a range of sources into one main quarterly release and adopting more robust and sustainable approaches to the presentation of data.

This was the first SFR to be produced by the 'Data Service', a new arms length organisation of the LSC, being setup to focus on improving and evolving data services for the FE sector. With its statistical resource now fully operational, the onward development of the SFRs is expected to gather pace along with improved availability of other data. As part of this process statisticians will be reviewing the content and are considering providing a quarterly series of starts for these programmes in future SFRs.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 6 May 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England: Land

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if the Commissioners will make it their policy to increase the amount of agricultural and horticultural produce grown on land owned by the Church Commissioners. [272949]

Sir Stuart Bell: All the Church Commissioners' agricultural land is let and their tenants have freedom of cropping.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when 1 Carlton Gardens ceased to be used as a ministerial residence. [271278]

Gillian Merron: 1 Carlton Gardens ceased being a ministerial residence on 16 October 2007.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits to the outer Chagos Islands by members of the Chagossian community sponsored by his Department are planned in the next 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the cost per person to the public purse of each trip. [273268]

Gillian Merron: The British Indian Ocean Territory Administration (BIOTA) hopes to arrange two visits by Chagossians to the territory in the next 12 months. It is hoped that one of these visits will be to repair Chagossian graves in BIOT. Funding has not yet been secured but based on the cost of two similar visits in 2008, which together included 14 people, BIOTA estimate that this will amount to around £60,000.

British Overseas Territories: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of white collar crime have been recorded on *(a)* Anguilla, *(b)* Bermuda and *(c)* the Cayman Islands in each of the last five years. [272622]

Gillian Merron: The information requested by the hon. Member is not held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, but by the authorities in each overseas territory.

British Overseas Territories: Crime Prevention

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much money the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System has cost in each year since its establishment. [272620]

Gillian Merron: Since its establishment in 1996, the total costs of the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System were:

	Total costs (£)
1996	197,517
1997	12,662
1998	12,662
1999	37,162
2000	70,687
2001	157,811
2002	28,755
2003	28,755
2004	28,755
2005	28,755
2006	28,755
2007	28,755
2008	236,273

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) paid for initial set-up costs in 1996 and for maintenance and support costs until 2003. The FCO also paid for licence upgrades and new servers in 2001 and 2008. From 2004 to 2007, the overseas territories paid for maintenance and support costs of £28,755 per annum. In 2008, they contributed £33,492. The total costs in 2008 paid for the system to be upgraded and maintained.

British Overseas Territories: Security

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by his Department to ensure acceptable standards of maritime and aviation security in the UK Overseas Territories. [272599]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport is responsible for aviation security in the UK and has a Regional Aviation and Maritime Security Adviser (RAMSA) to provide a dedicated guidance and support service to Governors, Directors of Civil Aviation (DCAs) and Port Facility Security Officers on aviation and maritime security issues in the Caribbean Overseas Territories (OTs) and Bermuda. This is supported by compliance inspection undertaken by teams drawn from the OTs with oversight maintained by TRANSEC, the Department's Transport Security and Contingencies Directorate. TRANSEC's London-based staff fulfil the same role directly in the other OTs.

British Overseas Territories: Tax Havens

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the progress of UK Overseas Territories towards the signing of the tax-sharing agreements discussed at the G20 summit. [272628]

Gillian Merron: We welcome the progress made by Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Gibraltar in signing or agreeing to sign in the near future Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEA) that count towards meeting the international standard.

Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands should reach the internationally agreed standard by the end of May 2009. The Cayman Islands have introduced domestic legislation to allow tax information to be shared with other jurisdictions and currently have 12 jurisdictions, in addition to eight bilateral agreements, included in this approach. An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development meeting in May will determine whether unilaterally listing countries with whom they are prepared to exchange tax agreements, in conjunction with appropriate information gathering powers, can count towards their TIEA number.

Gibraltar has invited a number of states to sign TIEAs and negotiations are progressing well.

We are in discussion with the smaller jurisdictions (Anguilla, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands) to find the best approach to allow them to meet the agreed standard as quickly as possible.

British Overseas Territories: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of *(a)* St. Helena's and *(b)* Bermuda's gross domestic product was generated by the tourism sector in each year since 2005. [272619]

Gillian Merron: Percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) generated from Tourism in St. Helena:

	Percentage
2004-05	3
2005-06	3
2006-07	4
2007-08	2

Percentage of GDP generated by tourism (hotels and restaurants) in Bermuda:

	Percentage
2005	5.5
2006	5.8
2007	5.5

Central Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposed United Nations mission in the Central African Republic and Chad peace conference on Eastern Chad; and if he will make a statement. [271594]

Gillian Merron: We are not aware of any current plans for the United Nations mission in the Central African Republic and Chad to hold a peace conference on Eastern Chad.

Colombia

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department met representatives of the Colombian Government during 2008. [270945]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers had meetings or discussions with representatives of the Colombian Government, including President Uribe, Vice President Santos, Foreign Minister Bermudez and Defence Minister Santos on the following dates in 2008:

20 February
6 March
11 March
16 May
21 May
9 October
16 October
5 November
19 November

In addition, FCO ministers are in regular contact with the Colombian ambassador to the UK.

Sir Peter Ricketts, Permanent Under Secretary of State for the FCO, visited Colombia 17-18 December 2008, during which he met several representatives of the Colombian Government including Foreign Minister Bermudez and Defence Minister Santos.

Other FCO officials, including in Bogota, London and in multilateral Posts, hold regular meetings with Colombian Government officials as part of their regular official duties. As this information is not held centrally, it would not be possible to provide a comprehensive list of such meetings without incurring disproportionate cost.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1235W, on the Democratic Republic of Congo: peacekeeping operations, what the proposed UK support to the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) will consist of; and what progress has been made on the secondment of the small number of appropriately skilled individuals from the UK to fill vacant posts on the MONUC staff. [271646]

Gillian Merron: In addition to the five British personnel currently seconded to UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUC), the UN Secretariat announced on 9 April 2009 that our candidate for the position of Deputy Force Commander slot had been accepted. He is scheduled to take up his post in May 2009, by which time the total number of UK personnel in the mission will be seven. The UK pays 7.8 per cent.

of the total cost of MONUC. In addition, the UK, through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool, has allocated £2.5 million for conflict prevention work in DRC this financial year.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1999W, on the Democratic Republic of Congo: peacekeeping operations; what progress has been made on securing *(a)* the second authorised infantry battalion, *(b)* two special forces companies and *(c)* a second formed police unit for the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and what discussions he has had with potential contributors. [271667]

Gillian Merron: The UN Secretariat has secured the additional infantry and special forces capabilities from Bangladesh, Jordan and Egypt and is in discussions with potential contributors to provide the second formed police unit. These additional personnel are scheduled for deployment in July. The UK has led calls for the reinforcement of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) and lobbied troop contributing countries.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270519]

Gillian Merron: There are members of staff currently suspended. We are unable to provide any details in order to protect their identities and on grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 131 of the 2009 Budget Red Book, what his Department's definition is of back office activity; and what the cost to his Department of such activity was in 2008-09. [271452]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works to the set of departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) and management and support activities. Work on DSOs one to eight is known as "front-line" activity. Management and support work is known as "back office" activity.

FCO resource accounts for the financial year 2008-09 are currently in preparation and costs are not yet available. The latest full year for which costs are available is 2007-08. At that time, the DSOs were known as strategic priorities (SPs).

Expenditure on management and support (including spend on information technology, procurement and maintenance among other items, but excluding programme spend) for 2007-08 was £360 million.

Some of that management and support activity was carried out for other Government Department staff, their share of which was recovered by the FCO.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 131 of the 2009 Budget Red Book, what the *(a)* UK mission, *(b)* current grade and *(c)* planned grade is of each post which will be downgraded as part of achieving the £6.6 million of savings; in which year each downgrading will take place; and what the reasons are for each downgrading. [271455]

David Miliband: The following downgrades of positions, completed or planned, will contribute to the £6.6 million of savings forecast by the Europe Zero Based Review (ZBR) efficiency programme:

Year of downgrade	*Post*	*Current grade*	*Proposed grade*
2009-10	Berne	C3	C4
2010-11	Brussels	SMS1	D7
2008-09	Gibraltar	C4	B3
2008-09	Istanbul	D6	C4
2008-09	Kyiv	SMS1	D7
2007-08	Lisbon	SMS2	SMS1
2008-09	Nicosia	SMS1	D7
2007-08	Rome	LE11	LE111
2009-10	Rome	LE11	LE111
2009-10	Vienna	SMS1	D7
2009-10	Warsaw	LE11	LE111

All these downgrades were undertaken to ensure that missions in the Europe Network were appropriately staffed to meet changing priorities and more efficient ways of working driven by the Europe Zero Based Review efficiency programme.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the European Fast Stream is not available as a Graduate Fast Stream option. [270836]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The European Fast Stream (EFS) has been suspended since 2007. This is because for several years there were no major concours being run by the EU institutions which were open to UK candidates. There was therefore no demand from Government Departments for Cabinet Office to supply them with European Fast Streamers through the Graduate Fast Stream (GFS) scheme. Cabinet Office, in conjunction with other interested Government Departments, is currently considering whether a revised version of the EFS should be reintroduced for 2010.

Ethiopia: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Ethiopia on the *(a)* welfare of the leader of the Union for Democracy and Justice and *(b)* the conduct of elections in 2010 in Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [271761]

Gillian Merron: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised both issues with the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in February 2009 pointing out the potential damage to Ethiopia's international image that both issues could cause. Our ambassador to Ethiopia also raises these issues with both the Ethiopian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin on a regular basis.

Officials from our embassy in Addis Ababa attended the trial of Birtukan Mideksa, leader of the Union for Democracy and Justice political party, in April 2009. We will continue to urge the Ethiopian Government to resolve this issue quickly.

We regularly raise our concerns about the perceived closing of political space in Ethiopia and the potential impact this might have on the 2010 elections. In support of efforts to promote democracy, the UK and other donors are helping to build the capacity of the National Election Board of Ethiopia. We are also committed to continue to work with the Ethiopian Government, opposition and civil society to promote free and fair elections.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since 27 December 2006 the UN Sanctions Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1737 has recommended ways to strengthen the effectiveness of sanctions imposed on Iran by the resolution; and what the outcome was of the recommendation in each instance. [270987]

David Miliband: The UN Sanctions Committee for UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1737 (2006) has reported to the UN Security Council at least every 90 days on its work, as required by UNSCR 1737. The reports comment on the implementation of the Resolution and recommend ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the sanctions measures. The Committee has submitted nine reports since 27 December 2006. Full details of the UN Sanctions Committee reports are publicly available at:

http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1737/sclreshcs.shtml

The UN Security Council considers all recommendations made by the Committee. Recommendations that have been implemented include the creation of a model text to assist member states in drafting their reports to the Committee, and making the consolidated lists of individuals and entities subjects to assets freezes and travel bans more user-friendly.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on a UN prohibition on the export of arms and related material to Iran; and if he will make a statement. [270994]

David Miliband: The Government fully support UN Security Council Resolution 1747, paragraph six of which calls upon all states to exercise vigilance and restraint in the supply, sale or transfer of a variety of arms and related material to Iran. We urge all states to comply with the resolution.

A UN prohibition on the export of arms and related materiel to Iran may be required in due course, however, as I said in the House on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 769, now is not the time to rush for more UN sanctions. Instead, now is the time to back American outreach, which is a once-in-a-generation opportunity both for us and for the Iranians. If the Iranians do not respond in a positive way, we can then ensure that further steps are taken.

Israel: Arms Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer by Lord Davies of Oldham of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, WA288, on Israel, what the remit of his Department's assessment of arms exports is; and when he expects the assessment to be complete. [267844]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 8WS.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Daventry of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on piracy, what the outcome was of the 5 March 2009 meeting of experts from the International Contact Group on Somalia; and whether the International Contact Group has issued guidance on the arrest and transfer of persons suspected of committing acts of piracy. [271041]

David Miliband: The chairman's summary of Contact Group Working Group 2 can be found online at

http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/2009/mars/PSC/16MARSBIS/CGPCS_WG%202.pdf

The role of the Working Group is to provide advice to the governments of member states, the Contact Group countries and to the participating organisations, not itself to issue guidance. The Working Group discussed national legislation, the exercise of jurisdiction, arrangements between states, capacity building and potential future work areas for the Group. The Contact Group meeting in Cairo on 17 March 2009 recognised the need for the Working Group to continue its work. The Contact Group also agreed to task the Working Group to set the legal framework for a possible International Trust Fund to help defray the expenses associated with prosecution of suspected pirates as well as to support the costs of other activities related to implementing contact group objectives regarding combating piracy in all its aspects.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the political situation in Darfur of restrictions on movement of the joint UN-AU force for Darfur imposed by the government of Sudan since the beginning of 2009; and what discussions he has had with the government of Sudan on those restrictions. [271537]

Gillian Merron: Intermittent restrictions on UN-African Union hybrid mission in Darfur (UNAMID)'s movement continue to be imposed by the Government of Sudan. This has a negative impact on the ability of the UN-African Union force to provide protection for civilians and monitor the humanitarian and security situation. However, despite the challenges, UNAMID continues to expand its operations. During the upsurge in conflict around Muhajeriya in January and February 2009, UNAMID successfully resisted requests from the Government of Sudan that they should withdraw.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called on the Sudanese Government to facilitate UNAMID deployment in his statement of 4 March 2009. The statement may be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom

We have also raised our concerns in other appropriate forums. The Foreign Secretary has not, however, discussed this issue directly with the Sudanese Government since the beginning of the year.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the treason *(a)* charge and *(b)* trial of Dr. Kizza Besigye in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [271762]

Gillian Merron: Dr. Kizza Besigye remains on bail and his trial on hold pending the outcome of a petition to the Constitutional Court, for which a date has not been set. We continue to be in close contact with Dr. Besigye's lawyer and carefully follow developments in the case.

In the course of our regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda, we continue to press them on all aspects of good governance and the rule of law.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the February 2009 Annual Conference of the Forum for Democratic Change in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [271763]

Gillian Merron: The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) held its second national delegates conference in February 2009, during which its members elected key party officials. This included the re-election of Dr. Kizza Besigye as FDC President. I welcome the Conference and the transparent contest for the FDC presidency and other party offices as a positive contribution to the strengthening of multiparty democracy in Uganda.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 99W, on Uganda: politics and government, what reports he has received on the trial of Lieutenant Ramathan Magara of the Uganda Army following the shooting of three people at Dr. Kizza Besigye's election rally in February 2006; and if he will make a statement. [271764]

Gillian Merron: We have received no further reporting on the trial of Lieutenant Ramathan Magara of the Ugandan Army since October 2008, but understand his case is still pending.

The responsibility for investigating incidents such as this lies with the local authorities. However, we continue to regularly raise with the Ugandan Government the importance of good governance, the rule of law, engaging with the opposition and building towards the next elections in 2011.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to support removal of a reference to foreign occupation in the draft text of the UN Durban 2 anti-racism conference; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [270594]

Gillian Merron: The UK supported the removal of the reference to foreign occupation in the outcome document of the Durban review conference. This did not, however, achieve consensus, as the reference was generic and did not apply to any specific state or region.

The Government did not discuss this issue with the Government of Israel.

A written ministerial statement on the Durban review conference was laid before the House on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 41WS.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount and proportion of child benefit paid to families earning more than *(a)* £100,000 and *(b)* £150,000 per annum in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [272738]

Mr. Timms: The Family Resources survey produces unreliable estimates for households with high incomes. An accurate estimate could therefore only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 16 March 2009 concerning a constituent reference PO3/09295/2009. [272947]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean of 13 March and 26 March 2009 on Equitable Life, reference LT2480. [273102]

Ian Pearson: A reply should be provided shortly. I apologise for the delay.

Public Expenditure: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the 2009 Budget on learners resident in Coventry. [272950]

Yvette Cooper: The Government announced a number of measures in the Budget to increase the opportunities for learners, and ensure the country has the skills for the future.

Budget 2009 announced that the September Guarantee of a place in education and training to every 16 and 17 year-old who wants one will be met in full. There will be additional investment of £251 million in 2009-10 and £404 million in 2010-11. This will cover an extra 54,500 student places in the next academic year.

Financial allocations will shortly be made to all schools and colleges—including those in Coventry—through the Learning and Skills Council.

And to support the long-term unemployed, Budget 2009 also guaranteed that every young person between 18 and 24 who has been claiming JSA for 12 months will be offered a job, work placement, or work-related skills training for at least six months. In total Budget 2009 allocated over £260 million to support additional training places, training allowances, and recruitment subsidies, to support young people to learn skills or gain experience in sectors where there will be strong future demand.

In addition to the £260 million, Budget 2009 also announced extra funding for Care First to offer 50,000 traineeships for young people in the care sector. Social care providers will receive a subsidy for offering sustained employment and training to young people who have been out of work for 12 months. This will give them the skills and experience they need for a career in this growing sector.

Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was *(a)* spent from the public purse and *(b)* raised for the Exchequer from Northern Ireland in the latest year for which information is available. [272489]

Yvette Cooper: Public expenditure in Northern Ireland was £17.2 billion in 2007-08 as set out in table 9.1 of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008 (HC489). However, we do not hold regional and country breakdowns for the aggregate amount of taxation raised for the Exchequer. The latest figures on tax raised in the UK as a whole can be found in the 2009 Budget Report (HC 407).

Public Works Loan Board

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each local authority borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board at *(a)* fixed and *(b)* variable rates in each of the last five years. [265857]

Angela Eagle: I have deposited a table showing this information in the House of Commons Library.

Small Businesses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made in each month since June 2008 of the likely effects on small businesses as a result of the downturn in the economy; what assistance he plans to give during the next 12 months to small businesses; what representations he has received on this issue; from whom; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [247992]

Ian Pearson: BERR makes use of official statistics produced by ONS on a range of economic indicators, and findings from a large number of regular surveys of business confidence and trading conditions conducted by business representative bodies (for example, the quarterly CBI Industrial Trends Survey). In addition, figures published by the British Banking Association enable trends in net lending to small businesses to be monitored each month. In addition, the Department receives lending data on a monthly basis. BERR also periodically conducts surveys of business which examine a wide range of issues of concern to business. These are published on the BERR website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/publications/reports/index.html.

On 12 January the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise announced a package of measures to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of businesses. This is an important element of wider Real Help for Business that provides targeted Government support to businesses. Further specific support was announced on 27 January aimed at freeing up lending of more than £2 billion for the automotive industry. Information about these measures is available through Business Link at

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

BERR is engaging with SME business representative bodies and UK banks about the issues affecting business during current economic difficulties, specifically through regular meetings of Small Business and Small Business Finance Forum.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much stamp duty was paid on average by purchasers of *(a)* a Right to Buy purchase council house, *(b)* a Right to Acquire purchase, *(c)* a Social HomeBuy purchase of the full equity and *(d)* a First Time Buyer Initiative purchase in the most recent period for which figures are available. [272418]

Ian Pearson: Information on the average amount of stamp duty land tax paid by purchases under these schemes is not available.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of first-time homebuyers who paid stamp duty land tax in each year since 1997. [273348]

Ian Pearson: The information is not available.

Tax Yields

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much taxation was raised in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [272490]

Yvette Cooper: The latest estimates of current receipts for the UK are published in table C6 of the Financial Statement and Budget Report (HC 407). We do not hold information on the aggregate amount of taxation raised in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Taxation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the top rates of *(a)* income tax and *(b)* social taxes in OECD economies. [273103]

Angela Eagle: The main source of information for international comparisons of income tax and social security contributions in OECD economies are publications produced annually by the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTPA) of the OECD in particular the 'OECD Tax Database' and the 'OECD Taxing Wages'.

The OECD Tax Database is available on the OECD website at:

http://www.oecd.org/ctp/taxdatabase

The OECD Taxing Wages publication is available at:

http://www.oecd.org/ctp/taxingwages

Taxation: Construction

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the average time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to *(a)* register small and medium-sized enterprises in the construction industry and *(b)* issue a unique taxpayer reference number. [272314]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs currently register the vast majority of Construction Industry scheme applications for individuals within six to seven working days. The unique taxpayer reference number is then dispatched to individuals via an automated process within the next seven working days.

Trade Unions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Castle Point of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 129W, on trade unions, what office facilities are provided for the exclusive use of each of the recognised trade union in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Crown Estate, *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(d)* the Valuation Office Agency; and what the notional monetary value of such provision is. [272392]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

Department HM Treasury	*Facilities*
HM Treasury	Office provided exclusively for the use of recognised trade union staff
HMRC	No central record of exclusive office use held
VOA	No exclusive use of office facilities provided

No information is available on notional annual value.

The Crown Estate is not an Agency of the Treasury.

Valuation Office: Conferences

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on the Valuation Office: overseas visits, if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts presented by the representative of the Valuation Office Agency at the Australian Valuer General, Registrar General and Surveyor General's Conference in Adelaide. [272387]

Mr. Timms: A copy of the presentation, made by a representative of the Valuation Office Agency, is available to view online at the Government of Australia Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure website at

http://lac2008.landservices.sa.gov.au/Industry_Day/2Presentations.asp#tretton

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on the Valuation Office: overseas visits, if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts presented by the representative of the Valuation Office Agency at the Mass Appraisal Valuation Symposium in Toronto. [272388]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1261W.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts on *(a)* practical problems in the valuation of non-residential properties and *(b)* steps for a successful revaluation presented by the representative of the Valuation Office Agency at the International Property Tax Institute in Pretoria in March 2009. [272389]

Mr. Timms: A copy of the presentation will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on the Valuation Office: overseas visits, what seminars officials of the Valuation Office Agency attended during the visit to the Gartner's Symposium/ITxpo in Cannes. [272472]

Angela Eagle: One person visited Cannes to attend the Gartner's Symposium/IT (xpo). Attendance at Symposiums and conferences provides benefit to both the Agency and the individual, particularly in terms of keeping them abreast of developments and innovation in IT.

The seminars attended were:

Jump Start 2009; Mobilising People Process and Technology

Perfecting the three pillars of Vendor Management: Contract, Relationship and Performance

Delivering Difference: The 2009 CIO Agenda

The 2008 Gartner Scenario: The current State and Future Direction of the IT industry

Bring Facebook, Wikipedia and Del.icio.us In House: Why Consumer Social Software is better than what you are paying for

Making the transformation to a Next-Generation Data Centre

Governing and Managing Application Organisations

The future of Infrastructure and Operations

Mastermind Interview: Ian Livingstone, CEO, BT

The end of the line for IT Organisations/Type Z IT and what it could mean for you

The Future of Government is no Government

Autonomy: Solution Provider Session

Designing the IT Organisation for Maximum Effectiveness

Mastermind Interview: Contradictions and Balance: Business is IT and IT is Business

The Futuristic CIO

What does IT Asset Management mean to your business?

Best practice in applying Lean in IT

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts presented by the representative of the Valuation Office Agency at the European Valuation Standards 2009 conference held in Warsaw on 1 April 2009. [272493]

Mr. Timms: A copy of the presentation and handouts will be placed in the Library.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether 10 Downing Street is equipped with an air conditioning system with an output greater than 250kW; and whether the air conditioning system in 10 Downing Street has been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; [272115]

(2) how much has been spent on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within 10 Downing Street in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force. [272119]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Kevin Brennan) on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1462W.

10 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions political events have been hosted at 10 Downing Street in each year since 1997; which organisation hosted each such event; and how much each such organisation was charged for each such event. [272042]

The Prime Minister: As was the practice under previous Administrations and in accordance with the ministerial code, I have hosted a number of political events at Downing street. The costs for these events are met by the Labour party. Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

Cricket

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will hold a reception at 10 Downing Street to celebrate the victory of the England women's cricket team in the women's cricket World Cup tournament in Australia. [268947]

The Prime Minister: Yes. My Office has contacted the England and Wales Cricket Board to arrange an appropriate date.

Damian McBride

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister to whom Damian McBride reported in the post he occupied before his recent resignation; what performance reporting procedures applied to him; what his job description was; what *(a)* pay band and *(b)* pay range he was in; and if he will make a statement. [269835]

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* main responsibilities and *(c)* annual salary of Damian McBride was at the time of his resignation; [270877]

(2) whether the post formerly occupied by Damian McBride was advertised externally prior to Mr. McBride's appointment to it; [270878]

(3) whether there are plans to make an appointment to fill the post left vacant by the resignation of Damian McBride. [270880]

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister on what date Damian McBride was appointed as a special adviser; what criteria were used in the selection procedures to fill the post; what reasons Mr. McBride provided for his resignation; and if he will make a statement. [270769]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band. Updated information will be published in the usual way.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister when he was first informed of the activities of Damian McBride that led to his departure from his office; whether he requested

Mr. McBride's resignation; whether Mr. McBride will be subject to disciplinary proceedings; whether Mr. McBride will receive financial compensation; what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Cabinet Secretary, *(b)* Cabinet colleagues and *(c)* others about the departure of Mr. McBride; and if he will make a statement. [269836]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given my spokesman on 14 April. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19008

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of each letter he wrote to hon. Members about the activities of Damian McBride; and if he will make a statement. [269837]

The Prime Minister: The letters referred to were sent on a private and personal basis to the individuals concerned.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister how many emails to *(a)* governmental and *(b)* non-governmental recipients were sent by Damian McBride from his Government email account between 1 September 2008 and 11 April 2009. [270847]

The Prime Minister: Civil servants, including special advisers are required to abide by their respective codes of conduct and guidance on the use of official resources.

Departmental Email

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will install Pretty Good Privacy encryption software and an associated email address to enable members of the public to correspond with Downing Street securely; [270293]

(2) for what reason the redesigned Downing Street website does not have a functioning contact email address or contact form; [269893]

(3) for how long the email Number 10 facility on the Downing Street website has been unavailable. [269909]

The Prime Minister: Enhancements have been made to the No. 10 email facility and an updated version is now available. The systems comply with the Government security requirements.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what overseas visits were undertaken in an official capacity by special advisers in his Office in each year since June 2007; what the cost of those visits was; how many official engagements and meetings were undertaken on each visit; and if he will make a statement. [269834]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list. Information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in the usual manner.

More detailed information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the ministerial code and the civil service management code.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what training was provided to special advisers in 10 Downing Street in each year since 2007; how much was spent on such training for each special adviser in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [270078]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish the register of interests of departmental special advisers. [270290]

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister whether Damian McBride declared any payments received by him from sources other than the public purse during his tenure of office in 10 Downing Street. [270879]

The Prime Minister: The rules for civil servants, including special advisers, on the handling of interests are set out in the Civil Service Management Code. Individual disclosures are personal between the employer and employee and not normally made public.

Departmental Public Appointments

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Prime Minister what his role is in the appointment of *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers to posts based in 10 Downing Street; and if he will make a statement. [271097]

The Prime Minister: The appointment of civil servants and special advisers, including those in my Office, are made in accordance with the conditions set out in the Ministerial Code.

Derek Draper

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister whether Mr. Derek Draper has a security pass to No. 10 Downing Street. [265853]

The Prime Minister: No.

Iraq: Iran

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to discuss the matter of the protected persons status of persons in Ashraf City, Iraq under the Geneva Conventions with the Prime Minister of Iraq during his visit to London on 30 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [272770]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with Prime Minister Maliki. I refer my hon. Friend to the press conference I held with Prime Minister Maliki on 30 April 2009; a transcript of which is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19193.

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister to what events held in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Israel to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tel Aviv he has been invited; what such invitations he has (i) accepted and (ii) declined; and if he will make a statement. [272173]

The Prime Minister: I have not received any such invitations. But the British ambassador to Israel, based in Tel Aviv, has accepted invitations to commemorate the 100th anniversary and will represent the British Government.

Members: Allowances

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he made of the merits to accepting the offers of meetings to discuss reform of hon. Members' allowances made by *(a)* the right hon. Member for Sheffield Hallam and *(b)* the right hon. Member for Witney before announcing his proposals on the matter on 21 April. [270959]

The Prime Minister: I have met the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) and the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) to discuss these issues.

Pakistan: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether Pakistan's nuclear weapons were discussed during his visit to Pakistan on 27 April 2009. [272724]

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister whether he made representations to President Zardari on the re-assertion of central government control in Swat during his recent meeting with him. [272728]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues on my recent visit to Pakistan. I refer the hon. Member and my hon. Friend to the press conference I held with Prime Minister Gilani on 27 April 2009; a transcript of which is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19148.

I also refer the hon. Member and my hon. Friend to the statement I made to the House on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 869-73.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Conferences

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* others attended the local media summit on 28 April 2009. [272813]

Andy Burnham: The local media summit on 28 April 2009 was attended by myself and my noble Friend Lord Carter of Barnes.

The event was attended by representatives from a wide range of stakeholder groups, including the National Union of Journalists, the Society of editors, the Newspaper Society, Ofcom, the Press Association, as well as other Members of Parliament and key stakeholders from national and local television and radio.

Conferences: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on (i) venue hire, (ii) food and drink and (iii) travel costs in respect of its local media summit on 28 April 2009. [272812]

Andy Burnham: My Department spent nothing on venue hire, food and drink, or travel costs for the local media summit of 28 April.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency spent on official hospitality in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [272809]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money.

The information requested by the hon. Member is not readily available from the Department's accounting system. To provide the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent members of staff working in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff received each rate. [273065]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Property: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's liability for unoccupied property rates was in 2008-09. [272811]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department had one unoccupied property, Oceanic house, during 2008-09. Oceanic house is a listed building and is exempt from business rates whilst it is unoccupied.

Gambling: Antigua

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many visits the Gambling Commission has made to Antigua in relation to the addition of that country to the White List of countries permitted to advertise online gambling services in the UK. [272759]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission have advised that there have been no official visits to Antigua in relation to its addition to the White List.

Licensed Premises: EC Action

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the sale of alcohol of the implementation of European Commission proposals on the introduction of online facilities for applications for the types of licence provided for by the Licensing Act 2003. [272844]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The EU services directive requires member states to allow applications for permission to provide services to be made electronically and to a 'point of single contact'. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is responsible for transposing its requirements into UK law. My Department is working with BERR to ensure that application processes under the Licensing Act 2003 (LA2003) in respect of services are modified in an appropriate and efficient manner. The requirements of the services directive complement our own plans to make it easier for applicants to apply for licences and permission under LA2003 electronically. The necessary protections currently in place under LA2003, including consultation with responsible authorities, will remain, and we will consult upon proposed modifications before implementation.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the amount of money his Department expects to pay in unoccupied property rates in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [273066]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not expect to pay any unoccupied property rates in *(a)* 2009-10 or *(b)* 2010-11.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Food

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of *(a)* the popularity with personnel, *(b)* the value for money in comparison with the daily mess rate and *(c)* alternative options for implementation of the Pay as you Dine pilot projects carried out at RAF Henlow, Leuchars and Holton prior to (i) any extension of the contract at these stations and (ii) any further extension of the concept to other bases; and if he will make a statement. [272067]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Pay As You Dine (PAYD) trials were established at RAF Henlow, RAF Leuchars and RAF Halton in 2002, 2004 and 2005, respectively. The performance of these trials has been reviewed continually since they commenced and from early 2008 focus groups and consumer surveys have been carried out to assess performance in meeting the aspirations of consumers and their perception of value for money. On the whole personnel accepted that there would be winners and losers, but that PAYD would be a fairer system, allowing choice on how they spend their money. This information is being used to inform the dialogue process currently ongoing with industry to identify a PAYD model that meets the RAF requirements and is viable to industry.

The MOD considered alternative options for PAYD both prior to implementing the trials and since. In all cases it was decided that the external contractor option best met the RAF requirements. This is still the expectation.

RAF trials are continuing and a RAF specific solution is being developed in consultation with industry, with a final proposal expected by mid 2010 at the latest. It is then planned that a revised PAYD model, informed by the results of the trials, will be taken forward with industry and the agreed solution will be introduced as far as possible to existing PAYD units and rolled out across the other RAF sites.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the regulations came into force. [272116]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each financial year since 2005-06; and what the maximum bonus was in each such financial year. [270185]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total monetary value of bonuses or performance awards paid to members of the Senior Civil Service (SCS), to Fixed Term Appointees and to 60,000 civil servants below the level of the SCS covered by the MOD main pay deal, excluding Trading Funds, and the maximum bonus in each financial year since 2005-06 is provided in the following tables.

Bonuses paid to senior civil servants

Financial year	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Performance year	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Value of bonuses paid (£)	1,500,000	1,325,700	1,178,500	918,000
Maximum bonus (£)	[1]17,000	17,600	16,000	12,500

[1] A higher bonus of £22,500 was available but not awarded.

Bonuses paid to fixed term appointees

Financial year	*2008-09*[1]	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Performance year	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Value of bonuses paid (£)	652,327	286,699	73,191	65,586
Maximum bonus (£)	50,000	50,000	12,546	14,340

[1] Figures for payment in FY 2009-10 are not yet available.

End of year performance awards paid to staff below the level of the SCS

Financial year	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Performance year	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Value of bonuses paid (£)	40,196,000	39,695,110	36,197,006	37,962,800
Maximum bonus[1] (£)	5,500	4,695	3,750	3,750

[1] Median performance bonus was £775. Bonuses are paid in August for contribution in the previous financial year.

Special bonuses

Financial year	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Performance year	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Value of bonuses paid (£)	4,635,021	3,961,417	4,364,400	3,962,482
Maximum bonus (£)	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Summary of bonuses paid

Financial year	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Performance year	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Value of bonuses paid (£)	46,983,348	45,268,926	41,813,097	42,908,868
Maximum bonus (£)	50,000	50,000	12,546	14,340

Gurkhas

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops are serving in Gurkha regiments. [273077]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 1 March 2009, the Brigade of Gurkhas comprised of some 130 Officers and 3,760 other ranks.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Land: Sales

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the monetary value of *(a)* grade A and *(b)* grade B agricultural land from the national land stock sold off in each year since 1997. [270441]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the number, area and average price of agricultural land sales for Grade 1 and 2 land between 1997 and 2004. Figures are not available separately for these grades of land and may not reflect full sales for 2001-04 because it is not possible to update the information fully without disproportionate cost. Data are not available after 2004.

Agricultural land sales in England

	1 and 2			*All grades*		
	Number of sales	*Area sold (Ha)*	*Average price (£ per Ha)*	*Number of sales*	*Area sold (Ha)*	*Average price (£ per Ha)*
1997	552	19,131	7,348	4,187	124,840	6,448
1998	488	15,016	6,974	3,498	103,802	6,134
1999	489	16,319	7,354	3,437	91,534	6,673
2000	462	12,365	6,948	3,227	78,502	7,082
2001	391	13,313	7,072	2,603	65,383	7,406
2002	397	12,524	6,696	3,029	77,487	6,915
2003	315	11,036	7,043	2,459	64,861	7,172
2004	205	6,275	7,256	1,570	37,634	7,654

Note:
Grade 1 land is that with very minor or no physical limitations to agricultural use. Yields are consistently high on these soils and cropping highly flexible since most crops can be grown including the more exacting horticultural crops. Grade 2 land has some minor limitations which exclude it from Grade 1. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown though there may be restrictions in the range of horticultural crops and arable root crops on some types in this grade.
Source:
DEFRA analysis of data supplied by the Valuation Office Agency. More details are available at:
https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esq/statnot/alp.xls

Wild Boars: Forest of Dean

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to control the wild boar population in the Forest of Dean. [272879]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA is not attempting to control feral wild boar in the Forest of Dean.

DEFRA's policy is that primary responsibility for feral wild boar management lies with local communities and individual landowners. However, Government are committed to facilitating this regional management through the provision of advice and guidance. The Deer Initiative is responsible for the provision of this advice (in addition to its responsibilities concerning wild deer).

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission plans to take to increase levels of electoral registration. [272733]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it is currently running a public information campaign to encourage people to register to vote before the June 2009 European parliamentary elections and local elections in England. It also delivers targeted campaigns directed at under-registered groups such as recent home movers, students, service personnel and British citizens living abroad.

Following its first assessment of the performance of Electoral Registration Officers, the Commission also plans to discuss with a number of officers how they intend to improve performance at the 2009 annual

canvass. In addition, the Commission plans to continue its programme of research into the accuracy and completeness of electoral registers.

Electoral Register: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to publish a list of local authority electoral registration departments that are not performing to national standards, with reference to the Commission's recent report Performance standards for electoral registration officers in Great Britain. [272734]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that comprehensive detailed information about the 2008 assessment of performance by each ERO in Great Britain against the performance standards has been published on its website. The Commission also informs me that a copy of the data from which its assessment was derived has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

14 Tothill Street

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 26W, on 14 Tothill Street, if he will place in the Library a copy of the memorandum of understanding between the House of Commons and House of Lords. [271161]

Nick Harvey: The terms of the memorandum are still under discussion. When it is agreed it will be placed in the Library.

House of Commons: Political Levy

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what rules govern the holding of events funded from the trade union political levy on the Parliamentary estate. [272071]

Nick Harvey: There are no specific rules governing the holding of events funded from the trade union political levy on the parliamentary estate; but the general rule is that facilities provided by the House for accredited trade union representatives are not available for party political activity or political campaigning, whether or not it has been funded from the political levy. Similarly, as a general principle, office space and facilities for Members are provided to help carry out parliamentary duties effectively and not for unrelated party purposes. The rules governing the purposes for which Members may use committee, conference, meeting and interview rooms are provided on the parliamentary intranet.

Parliament: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission for what reasons the Parliamentary intranet was not available on 26 April; what steps the Commission *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to reduce the number of occasions when the intranet is not available; and if he will make a statement. [272170]

Nick Harvey: There were no reported problems with the availability of the intranet service on 26 April 2009.

The parliamentary technology infrastructure is being replaced over a three-year period. The replacement improves resilience in order to reduce the number of breakdowns in services. The replacement programme is one third completed and some services, such as the intranet service, are already more resilient than they were in April 2008.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on which occasions the Parliamentary intranet has not been available since January 2008; what the reasons were for non-availability in each case; and if he will make a statement. [272171]

Nick Harvey: The parliamentary intranet has been unavailable due to unplanned events on the following occasions since January 2008:

24 January 2008: 45 minutes due to a domain name service (DNS) failure;

29 February 2008: 1 hour and 30 minutes due to a proxy server service failure.

The parliamentary intranet was also unavailable due to planned maintenance on the following occasion:

21 March 2009: 9 hours due to emergency security patch requirements.

This answer deals only with the intranet service but access to that service can be denied if there is a failure on the parliamentary network or one of the remote access services that Members use when away from the estate.

SCOTLAND

High-Speed Rail

8. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on a high-speed rail link between London and Scotland. [271868]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I have discussions with colleagues on a wide range of issues.

Electricity Generators

9. **Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent representations he has received on the costs of generators of electricity in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [271869]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend receives regular representations from industry on generation and transmission matters in Scotland.

Budget 2009

10. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effect of Budget 2009 on taxpayers in Scotland. [271870]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Taxpayers in Scotland will benefit from over £100 million in Barnett consequentials, and around £400 million from additional Government investment.

Pleural Plaques

11. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has recently discussed with the First Minister access to compensation for people in Scotland with pleural plaques. [271871]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues.

Banking

12. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with representatives of banks on the future of banking in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [271872]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I am in regular discussion with bank representatives. The Scottish banking system is now well placed to combat these difficult times, after the significant intervention by this Government to stabilise the market, including the £50 billon recapitalisation of RBS and Lloyds.

Gross Domestic Product

13. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent trends he has identified in the gross domestic product of Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [271873]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Scottish economy has not been immune from the global economic difficulties and is now officially in recession. To combat this the UK Government have delivered a £500 million fiscal boost from Budget 2009 measures, a £2 billion boost as part of the 2008 pre-Budget report, all in addition to the substantial interventions to support the Scottish banks.

Broadband Access

14. **Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the development of next generation broadband access in rural Scotland. [271874]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues. The Government are very committed to Next Generation Broadband and the opportunities it brings for consumers and businesses alike.

The Budget confirmed the Government's plan to deliver a Universal Service for broadband at up to 2 Mbps by 2012.

The Government will also be carrying out research on broadband 'Not spots' under "Delivering Digital Inclusion—An Action Plan for Consultation". This will aim to inform local communities enabling them to manage the risks and realise the opportunities of Next Generation Access locally and regionally, where they identify a need and want to activate their own solutions. This research will cover the whole of the UK.

Equal Pay

15. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Minister for Women and Equality on equal pay between men and women in Scotland. [271875]

Ann McKechin: I have had discussions with my right hon. Friend on a range of equal pay issues, including in relation to the provisions in the new Equality Bill. The Bill, which extends to Scotland, includes measures to improve transparency around the gender pay gap.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Air Pollution

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many aeroplanes were subject to *(a)* carbon monoxide, *(b)* carbon dioxide and *(c)* ozone gas level monitoring in cabin air in 2008; in how many and what percentage of cases levels of each gas above acceptable levels were detected; and if he will make a statement. [273037]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The presence of gases in aircraft cabin air is not routinely monitored in the UK. Studies such as the European Cabin Air project have shown that normally the levels of chemical and biological contaminants in aircraft are less than in many work environments such as office buildings.

There are however occasional bad smells or "fume events" during flights, which are estimated to occur on approximately 0.05 per cent of flights overall (one in 2000).

The Department for Transport funded research is under way to capture samples of aircraft cabin air during normal conditions and fume events and analyse them to see what substances they contain and in what concentrations.

The research findings will be published as a whole once they are written up and peer reviewed.

Since 2006 the Government have a statutory duty to safeguard the health of persons on aircraft. As far as we know, that is unique to the UK and we take it seriously.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors underlie the decision to allocate the research project on cabin air quality to Cranfield; and for what reasons EU public procurement procedures were not invoked in this instance. [273038]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The research project was tendered under the single tender procedure and approved in April 2007. Due to the complex logistics and the need for a project manager to develop protocols, this research could not be specified as a normal tender. Following the tender, Cranfield university was chosen by the Department, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Civil Aviation Authority, BALPA (largest pilot trade union) and airlines.

Cycling: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department is providing to Torbay local authority for the National Cycle Network in 2009-10. [272518]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not provide funding directly to local authorities for specific projects such as the National Cycle Network, although they may choose to spend some of their LTP—local transport plan—funding on this.

In 2009-10 the Department has made available £7 million in grant funding to Sustrans for a Links to School programme to provide children with high quality cycle and walking routes to schools, linked to the National Cycle Network and local cycle networks.

Torbay has not yet applied for any of this although they have until September 2009 to apply to Sustrans for match funding for such links.

Departmental Pay

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1223W, on departmental pay, what the equivalent figures are for each year since his Department was established. [273012]

Mr. Hoon: The number of Civil Servants in DFT to receive a non-consolidated performance payment (NCPP) each year since the Department was established is shown in the following table.

	Total number of staff who received one or more NCPP	*Percentage of staff receiving NCPP*	*Total NCCP paid (£)*
2003-04[1]	4,814	47	2,020,828
2004-05[2]	5,537	50	1,881,308
2005-06	13,682	71	8,212,780
2006-07	14,906	77	10,290,961
2007-08	13,472	72	8,909,692

[1] These figures exclude SCS and DVL[illegible] available.
[2] These figures exclude DVLA which are n[illegible]ilable.

M18: Lorries

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1603W, on M42: lorries, if he will consider the merits of prohibiting heavy goods vehicles from travelling in the outside lane on those stretches of the M18 where there are only two lanes. [272982]

Paul Clark: There are currently no plans to implement a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) overtaking lane on the M18.

M25: Road Traffic

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will request the Highways Agency to conduct a preliminary study of *(a)* the construction of slip roads at junction 5 of the M25 and *(b)* the effect this would have on the alleviation of heavy lorry congestion from cross-channel routes. [272948]

Paul Clark: Following consideration of the recommendations of the ORBIT multi-modal study, the then Secretary of State in his response, asked the Highways Agency to carry out further work on possible improvements to junction 5 of the M25.

The objectives of this work were to consider the technical feasibility of building slips roads to connect the M26 to the A21 south of the M25. An initial assessment was completed in 2004 and concluded that although improvements were feasible, further work was necessary to determine whether such options would provide value for money. This work is being progressed by the Highways Agency and its findings will be considered alongside our exercise to establish spending priorities for transport across modes after 2014.

In light of that, the Government do not consider it necessary at this stage to commission further additional work on improvements to junction 5 of the M25.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce rail fares. [272590]

Paul Clark: We have made it clear that were RPI to be negative this year, this could lead to a reduction in fares next year.

The Government do not intend to change the policy capping regulated fare increases at a maximum of RPI+1 per cent. The policy reflects the need to balance protection for passengers with a move away from very heavy demands on the taxpayer.

It is our intention that from January 2010 this cap will also generally apply to individual regulated fares, as opposed to being an average over the whole fares basket.

Unregulated fares are a commercial matter for train operators who are free to set them on a commercial basis.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to promote the availability of the Rover range of rail tickets. [272850]

Paul Clark: The Minister of State has recently completed an intensive UK wide rail tour using an All Line Rail Rover which has improved the visibility of this excellent value product to the market. The promotion and advertising of this range of tickets is undertaken by train operators.

Railways: Job Creation

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of jobs likely to be created by planned work on *(a)* electrification of parts of the rail network, *(b)* construction of high speed rail routes and *(c)* re-opening of disused railway lines. [272395]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working with the rail industry to explore the case for further electrification, in particular of the First Great Western and Midland main lines. However, until a decision has been made on whether to take forward such schemes, the extent of the planned electrification and the timescale for doing the work, it is not possible to estimate the number of jobs that might be created.

High speed two has been formed to develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland. As a first stage it will report by the end of the year with a proposed route from London to the west midlands, setting out any necessary options. Until a decision is made regarding the construction of a new line or lines, it is not possible to say how many jobs might be created.

The Government's priority is to maintain and enhance the existing network. Local authorities may put forward proposals to reopen disused lines if they believe this is the best way to meet local transport needs. Construction and manpower for such proposals are a matter for the authority in question.

Railways: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the reliability of direct train services between Paignton and London Paddington. [272524]

Paul Clark: Department of Transport officials meet First Great Western every four weeks to discuss franchise performance. The Public Performance Measure of each train operator is published by Network Rail on its website at:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/aspx/842.aspx

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with First Great Western on rail services between Exeter and Paignton in the last 12 months; and what the results of such discussions were. [272525]

Paul Clark: The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris) met First Great Western on 12 May 2008. First Great Western said it was looking for the Department for Transport's support for solutions for train services west of Exeter following the withdrawal of South West Trains services on those routes in December 2009. Paignton is one of the destinations served by the South West Trains services.

The Department for Transport subsequently asked First Great Western to make proposals to it for covering the withdrawn South West Trains services west of Exeter. These proposals have been received and are currently under consideration by the Department.

Transport: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that his Department provides timely assistance and advice to local transport bodies seeking to introduce quality control measures. [273096]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport (DfT) provides a range of Guidance to local transport authorities and other bodies. For example, the Department has recently consulted on draft Guidance to inform the next local transport plans, which are due in April 2011. This draft guidance sets out the importance of effective programme, project and risk management, and DfT aims to produce further detailed advice on this subject in due course.

The Department has also issued detailed guidance in respect of some of the measures included in the Local Transport Act 2008, for example in relation to Quality Partnership schemes that a local authority may make to improve their bus services. There will be further consultation and guidance during 2009 on quality contracts. officials are supporting that through ongoing engagement with regional and local authorities and bus operators.

Transport: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the performance of Torbay local authority in meeting the objectives of its local transport plan. [272526]

Paul Clark: Torbay council, along with other local transport authorities in England outside London, has recently undertaken a review of progress made over the first two years of their current local transport plan (April 2006-March 2008).

As part of this process, the Government office for the south-west met with the authority to discuss progress. Subsequently, it issued a letter to the authority, which is published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/ltp2/southwest/torbay1.pdf

Torbay council has made their progress report available on their website at:

http://www.torbay.gov.uk/ltp2progressreport-v5.pdf

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file *(a)* CPO 14/7 Abortion Laws in Other Countries, *(b)* CPO 5/5 Publicity Material and Publications from Anti Abortion Organisation, *(c)* CPO 4/28 HF and A Amendment of the Abortion Act 1967 and *(d)* CPO 3/6 Abortion Act 1967 Correspondence between Sir Bernard Braine MP and Minister of Health on matters concerning abortions in NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [272244]

Dawn Primarolo: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 570W, on abortion, what the causes of death were in each case; and if he will make a statement. [272245]

Dawn Primarolo: The information collected on this issue is available in the successive reports of the confidential enquires into maternal deaths (CEMACH), and these reports are available from CEMACH. There were three maternal deaths following termination of pregnancy from 2003-05. One death resulted from severe anaemia from haemorrage from retained products, and the cause of death in the other two cases was unclear.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were admitted to hospital as a consequence of intoxication through alcohol in each of the last 12 months; [271734]

(2) how many people were treated for alcohol abuse in each of the last 12 months; [271735]

(3) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men were admitted to hospital for treatment for the effects of alcohol abuse in each of the last five years. [271736]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables give the number of admissions to hospital, in England, as a result of alcohol intoxication for 2007-08, the latest year for which this data has been finalised, and the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions, in England, for the last five years for which data is available.

Concerning treatment, prior to 1 April 2008 there was no routine collection of data on numbers receiving structured care-planned alcohol treatment in England. On 1 April 2008, a National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NATMS) begun operation to collect and report local and national information on the provision of structured care-planned treatment for alcohol misuse in England.

While the first year's NATMS data is due to be reported in October 2009, limited data is reported on the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System website, at:

www.ndtms.net/alcohol.aspx

This provides data at a countrywide, strategic health authority and primary care trust level. The latest countrywide data shows that in February 2009, 54,306 people were in contact with specialist alcohol treatment in England, with a year-to-date figure for 2008-09 of 98,058 people.

Hospital admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of alcohol intoxication (ICD-10 code F10.1) for 2007-08 in England

*Month episode ended**	*Admission episodes*
April	3,230
May	3,400
June	3,381
July	3,400
August	3,442
September	3,261
October	3,400
November	3,237
December	3,134
January	3,460
February	3,181
March	3,365

Number of alcohol-related hospital admissions in England by sex, for 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Women	*Men*	*Total*
2003-04	219,297	191,121	369,410
2004-05	245,446	398,738	644,184
2005-06	270,136	430,376	735,512
2006-07	300,038	490,080	790,110
2007-08	325,892	537,365	863,257

Notes:
Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

* Date episode ended
This field contains the date on which a patient left the care of a particular consultant, for one of the following reasons: Discharged from hospital (includes transfers) or moved to the care of another consultant.

ICD-10 Code used for alcohol intoxication
F10.1 - Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of Alcohol: Acute Intoxication

Alcohol-Related Admissions
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.

Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis
These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and works to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken as outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the alcoholic drinks industry on trends in the rate of harm attributable to the consumption of alcohol in low income communities; [272402]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities on measures to reduce the rate of harm attributable to the consumption of alcohol in low income communities. [272003]

Dawn Primarolo: Ministers have not specifically discussed reducing alcohol-related harm in low income communities at recent meetings with the alcohol industry or with primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

Reducing alcohol-related harms is an integral part of the Department's health inequalities strategy, as described in 'Health Inequalities—progress and next steps', June 2008. This includes support and funding for primary care trusts in Spearhead areas which face the greatest challenges in reducing the trend of alcohol-related hospital admissions.

Breast Feeding

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to increase the rate of breastfeeding by women from disadvantaged backgrounds; [272305]

(2) what steps his Department is taking *(a)* further to encourage breastfeeding and *(b)* to support continued breastfeeding by women who return to work. [272307]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has a range of interventions in place to promote breastfeeding, including action to help women from disadvantaged backgrounds. These include: investment of £6 million for primary care trusts to implement the Baby Friendly Initiative in hospitals and in the community; the provision of easily accessible and timely advice through the National Breastfeeding Helpline; the breastfeeding DVD "From bump to breastfeeding" given to all new mothers in England via their midwives and health visitors; and a number of promotional materials provided and activities held during the National Breastfeeding Awareness Week. In addition, the Department's healthy start scheme supports breastfeeding mothers from low income and disadvantaged households.

We are also supporting breastfeeding women at work by promoting breastfeeding-friendly places, engaging with employers and business (shopping centres, retailers, restaurants etc.) encouraging them to provide the necessary facilities to help mothers who wish to breastfeed. We have also published the leaflet "Breastfeeding and Work", providing information to employers and employees on their rights, obligations and best practice to enable women to continue breastfeeding after returning to work. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to inspectors of care homes to assist them in assessing how each home performs against each of the national minimum standards; and what factors are taken into account in assessing performance against each standard. [272700]

Phil Hope: The Department does not issue guidance directly to inspectors of care homes. The inspection of care homes is the responsibility of the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

We are informed by CQC that it issues a range of guidance documents to its inspectors. "How we inspect services: Guidance for inspectors" gives an overview of:

each stage of the key inspection cycle—from planning, to fieldwork and reporting; and

the different types of inspections—key, random and thematic.

The guidance is available on the CQC website at:

www.cqc.org.uk/_db/_documents/20081014_How_we_inspect_care_services_310408.doc

Key Lines of Regulatory Assessment (KLORA) helps inspectors make decisions about the quality of a service. They give examples of what to look for to decide whether service users experience poor, adequate, good or excellent outcomes. KLORA is available on the CQC website at:

www.cqc.org.uk/guidanceforprofessionals/socialcare/careproviders/inspection/keylinesofregulatoryassessment.cfm

Depression: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* under 10 years and *(b)* under 16 years were diagnosed with depression (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available. [272705]

Phil Hope: We do not routinely collect this information. However, a 2004 survey by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) found that 9.6 per cent. of children in Great Britain aged between five and 16 suffered from some kind of mental disorder. The survey was based on interviews with a sample of parents and children. The full results are published in the ONS report 'Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain'.

Details on prevalence of mental disorders by age and sex, 2004 are listed in the following table.

Prevalence of mental disorders by age and sex, 2004—All children Great Britain

Percentage of children with each disorder

	5 to 10 year olds			*11 to 16 year olds*			*All children*		
	Boys	*Girls*	*All*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*All*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*All*
Emotional disorders	2.2	2.5	2.4	4.0	6.1	5.0	3.1	4.3	3.7
Anxiety disorders	2.1	2.4	2.2	3.6	5.2	4.4	2.9	3.8	3.3
Separation anxiety	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4
Specific phobia	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Social phobia	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Panic	—	—	—	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2
Agoraphobia	—	—	—	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
Post traumatic stress	—	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2

Prevalence of mental disorders by age and sex, 2004—All children Great Britain

Percentage of children with each disorder

	5 to 10-year-olds			*11 to 16-year-olds*			*All children*		
	Boys	*Girls*	*All*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*All*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*All*
Obsessive compulsive	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Generalised anxiety	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.9	1.6	1.2	0.6	1.0	0.8
Other anxiety	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.5	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.9
Depression	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0	1.9	1.4	0.6	1.1	0.9
Depressive episode (full ICD criteria)	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.8	1.4	1.1	0.5	0.8	0.6
Other depressive episode	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2
Conduct disorders	6.9	2.8	4.9	8.1	5.1	6.6	7.5	3.9	5.8
Oppositional defiant disorder	4.5	2.4	3.5	3.5	1.7	2.6	4.0	2.0	3.0
Unsocialised conduct disorder	0.9	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.5	0.8
Socialised conduct disorder	0.6	—	0.3	2.6	1.9	2.2	1.6	0.9	1.3
Other conduct disorder	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.6
Hyperkinetic disorder	2.7	0.4	1.6	2.4	0.4	1.4	2.6	0.4	1.5
Less common disorders	2.2	0.4	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.9	0.8	1.3
Autistic spectrum disorder	1.9	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.8	1.4	0.3	0.9
Tic disorders	0.0	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.0
Eating disorders	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.3
Mutism	—	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1
Any disorder	10.2	5.1	7.7	12.6	10.3	11.5	11.4	7.8	9.6
Base (weighted)	2,010	1,916	3,926	2,101	1,950	4,051	4,111	3,866	7,977

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Food Standards Agency has made of the likely effects on manufacturers and retailers of nutritional supplements of the provisions of Article *(a)* 13.3 and *(b)* 16.1, 17.1 and 18.4 of the EU Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation in relation to the role of the European Food Safety Authority. [272376]

Dawn Primarolo: The regulation has transition periods to allow food business operators to respond to the effect of decisions on the authorisation of health claims, such as the need to re-label if claims are not authorised. Any delays in completing the process set out in the provisions to these articles could affect the ability of food business operators to respond to new conditions on products within normal re-labelling cycles and additional costs could occur. This possible outcome was discussed in the impact assessment the Food Standards Agency finalised in July 2007.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from manufacturers and retailers of nutritional supplements on the economic impact assessment of the EU Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [272407]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has not received any such representations. Written representations with revised assessments of the economic impact of the European Union Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation have however been received by Food Standards Agency officials from two of the food supplement industry's trade associations.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on applications to the European Food Safety Authority for the approval of statements submitted under Article 13.1 of the EU Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [272408]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has kept a record of all claims submitted to the United Kingdom under Article 13.1 of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation for application to the European Union list, and subsequent correspondence with submitters. Details of the consolidated EU list of health claims undergoing assessment, which also includes applications submitted by other member states, is publicly available on the European Food Safety Authority's website. The FSA has kept stakeholders fully informed of developments with the Article 13 process and will continue to do so as work progresses.

Drugs: Babies

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were drug dependent at birth in each region in each of the last five years; and what the numbers of such children in the case of each type of drug were.[1] [271664]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables show the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the primary or secondary diagnosis was either neonatal withdrawal

1.*[Official Report, 1 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 1MC.]*

symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction or withdrawal from therapeutic use of drugs in newborns. It is not possible to provide information on the type of drug to which a newborn child is addicted.

Counts of FCEs with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence for the period 2006-07 and 2007-08

SHA of residence	*Total finished consultant birth episodes*	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
North East SHA	52	9
North West SHA	100	145
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	163	122
East Midlands SHA	64	51
West Midlands SHA	82	56
East of England SHA	95	66
London SHA	66	51
South East Coast SHA	40	30
South Central SHA	20	42
South West SHA	60	81
Other and unknown	469	577
Total	1,211	1,230

Counts of FCEs with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by SHA of residence for the period 2003-04 and 2005-06

SHA of residence	*Total finished consultant birth episodes*		
	2005-06	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge SHA	*	*	*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	12	16	10
Essex SHA	0	8	*
North West London SHA	11	11	11
North Central London SHA	12	13	*
North East London SHA	*	0	*
South East London SHA	*	*	*
South West London SHA	*	0	*
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	6	*	*
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	17	30	40
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	23	27	43
West Yorkshire SHA	12	11	27
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	7	12	16
Greater Manchester SHA	10	8	11
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	54	63	40
Thames Valley SHA	7	*	*
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	*	9	7
Kent and Medway SHA	0	*	*
Surrey and Sussex SHA	13	11	13
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	62	40	44
South West Peninsula SHA	17	17	10
Dorset and Somerset SHA	28	8	9

Counts of FCEs with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by SHA of residence for the period 2003-04 and 2005-06

SHA of residence	*Total finished consultant birth episodes*		
	2005-06	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
South Yorkshire SHA	*	*	*
Trent SHA	6	8	10
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	21	*	9
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	13	6	12
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	*	*	*
West Midlands South SHA	*	0	6
Other and unknown	860	873	817
Total	1,211	1,193	1,156

Notes:
1. ICD-10 diagnosis codes used:
P96.1 Neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction.
P96.2 Withdrawal symptoms form therapeutic use of drugs in newborn.
2. Low numbers: Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk).
3. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital for conditions related to the misuse of illegal drugs *(a)* in each region in each year since 1997-98 and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available. [272787]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Eating Disorders

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10, (ii) between 10 and 18 and (iii) over 18 years in each region were admitted to hospital for eating disorders in each of the last five years. [272856]

Phil Hope: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Epilepsy: Health Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* educational institutions and *(c)* voluntary organisations on the provision of services to those with epilepsy. [270407]

Ann Keen: The Department has issued no recent guidance to local authorities, educational institutions and voluntary organisations on the provision of services specifically for those living with epilepsy.

However, officials have been working with NHS Choices to produce detailed guidance and information for health professionals and the general public on epilepsy which can be accessed at the website

www.nhs.uk/livewell/epilepsy/Pages/Epilepsyhome.aspx

This guidance includes information on diagnosis and the available treatment options, specific information for children with epilepsy including those with learning disabilities and special education needs, as well as advice and links to sites covering issues around work and benefit rights.

Food: Labelling

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects the Community List referred to in Article 13.2 of the EU Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation to be published by 31 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [272981]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 833W.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which sexual health clinics have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted the 'You're Welcome' quality mark. [272362]

Dawn Primarolo: The operating framework for the NHS in England 2009-10 (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) encourages local areas to implement 'You're Welcome' standards, which set out principles for all health care settings to ensure they are young people friendly.

The initial area of focus in the roll-out of 'You're Welcome' was to put in place a regionally based infrastructure to support primary care trusts and children's trusts to implement locally owned, sustainable arrangements for 'You're Welcome'. The focus now is on promoting uptake in both national health service and non-NHS provision through a wide reaching dissemination programme which has been put in place across the nine regions. The regions are prioritising sexual and reproductive health services during 2009-10.

To date, 41 health services have already applied for 'You're Welcome' quality mark. Of these, 32 are sexual health services, 16 of which have been granted the quality mark which are:

ARC at Stowe;
Bpas Leigham Clinic;
Brook Brixton;
Brook Liverpool;
Brook Manchester;
Brook Milton Keynes;
Brook Oldham;
Carlton Street Centre for Sexual Health;
CHYPS Plus;
Market Street Health Centre;
North Ormsby Health Village Contraception and Sexual Health Service;
The Parallel;
Sex Sense at Pashgrove Healthy Living Centre;
Streetwise Young Peoples Project;
Vauxhall Riverside Sexual Health Service; and
Victoria Clinic.

Health Services: Non-profit Making Associations

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on future commissioning services in primary care trusts of the provision for health-care made by social enterprises. [272794]

Phil Hope: The Department has not made such an assessment.

National health service commissioning is focused upon improving the quality of care, personalisation and improving outcomes for individuals. Patient choice and increasing the plurality of providers are key to this.

Primary care trusts are currently developing their commissioning plans for community services, which includes considering future patterns of provision, including social enterprises.

Hospitals: Furniture

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work his Department has undertaken with *(a)* the Design Council and *(b)* the national health service on the development of new furniture design for hospitals to reduce the incidence of health-care acquired infections in hospitals. [272837]

Ann Keen: In autumn 2007, the Department held workshops with around 500 national health service doctors, nurses and cleaning staff at which ideas were gathered about what kinds of technology might be used to further help combat health care-associated infections more effectively. From the 150 ideas generated, 10 were prioritised as showing the most promise and these have been subject to design and development programmes since that time. Among the 10 prioritised ideas are two items of furniture—a waste bin/locker and a new style commode. Working prototypes are currently subject to clinical trials at University College London Hospital.

Additionally, the Department commissioned the Design Council to deliver a competition in which designers joined forces with manufacturers to develop working prototypes of furniture for the bedside environment (patient chair, bedside storage and overbed table), a porter's chair and a commode. The Design Council also worked with the Royal College of Art's Helen Hamlyn Centre to design innovations in a further five areas, one of which was a new style 'intelligent' patient bed mattress. These prototypes have now been launched and will be showcased over the next three weeks at seven NHS hospitals and then at a number of health care conferences through until the autumn.

Learning Disability: Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what role the Transforming Adult Social Care Programme Board will have in relation to adult social care for people with a learning disability; [272503]

(2) what steps he plans to take to monitor the work of the Transforming Adult Social Care Programme Board; [272504]

(3) what steps his Department plans to take to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* evaluate the (i) implementation and (ii) use of the Transforming Social Care grant within each local authority. [272505]

Phil Hope: The Transforming Adult Social Care Programme Board is a cross-sector body, which brings together the key partners responsible for oversight of delivery of all dimensions of "Putting People First" (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) for all citizens, including people with learning disabilities. The Terms of Reference, current membership and agreed minutes of meetings are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Socialcarereform/Personalisation/DH_088549

The Department has governance structures and performance management processes in place to monitor its work to deliver "Putting People First" through the Transforming Adult Social Care Board. Other partners are responsible for monitoring their own contributions to the programme.

The Department of Health does not directly monitor the use of the ring-fenced Social Care Reform Grant for each local authority. However we expect that the Care Quality Commission will do so, against the clear outcomes set out in the Local Authority Circular, LAC (DH)(2009)1, which can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_095719

A copy has been placed in the Library.

As partners on the Transforming Adult Social Care Programme Board, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association undertook to measure and report on progress in implementing "Putting People First" over the year 2008-09. They are due to publish the report on 11 May.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on funding for cognitive behavioural therapy on funding for fully-qualified psychologists. [272004]

Phil Hope: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) makes recommendations about effective treatments, after investigating the available evidence: it offers no guidance about funding.

The Government announced three years of funding, rising to £173 million in 2010-11, to train a new workforce in cognitive behavioural therapy to help the national health service put in place NICE guidance for treatment of depression and anxiety disorders.

Already some 800 trainees are in place and a further 1,700 will start this autumn. All these trainees are supervised by fully-trained psychologists in order to safeguard the quality of the therapy services they are delivering now and in the future.

Mentally Ill: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions of anti-psychotic drugs were issued to children aged *(a)* under 10 years and *(b)* under 16 years (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available; [272781]

(2) how many prescriptions for anti-depressants were issued to children aged *(a)* under 10 years and *(b)* under 16 years (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available; [272783]

(3) how many prescriptions for drugs to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder were issued to children aged *(a)* under 10 years and *(b)* under 16 years (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available. [272784]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of the payments made to independent sector treatment centres has been since their introduction; and what cost would have been incurred in payments under the tariff set for comparable NHS procedures. [272004]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total cost of the payments made to independent sector treatment centre providers up to 31 March 2009 is £1,215 million.

The Department does not hold information about what the total cost of the payments to independent sector treatment centre providers would have been under the tariff set for comparable national health services procedures.

NHS: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence follows to determine the order of priority in which it makes appraisals of particular drugs. [272038]

Dawn Primarolo: Following final referral of technology appraisal topics by the Secretary of State for Health, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence sequences its work based on the date of referral of topics and their anticipated licensing timeframe.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1235W, on orphan drugs, when he expects to publish the Government's response to the consultation. [272039]

Dawn Primarolo: The joint Department of Health and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) consultation on a revised topic selection process for technology appraisals will close on 22 May. The Department and NICE will publish information on action following the consultation later this year.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's strategy for accelerating the delivery for the National Programme for IT. [272808]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's strategy for accelerating delivery of the national programme is set out in the Treasury Minute on the second report from the Committee of Public Accounts, Cm 7568, laid before Parliament on 26 March 2009. A copy is available in the Library.

NHS: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of pension payments made to NHS employees was who took early retirement between the date of their retirement and the date they reached the NHS pension scheme normal retirement age was in each of the last five years. [272671]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the form requested. The total premature retirement costs including the cost of paying pensions and lump sum early, enhancements of lump sum and enhanced service after normal retirement age are set out in the following table.

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Premature retirement costs prefunded (one-off capitalised costs)	67,581	52,470	51,609	162,578	198,567
Premature retirement costs quarterly recharge	0	65,281	64,235	64,742 [A]	62,732

Note:
National health service organisations had a choice of paying for premature retirement either by quarterly recharge of actual costs or by a one off capitalised charge.
Source:
NHS Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance the NHS pension scheme has issued on the award of enhancements under the scheme to NHS staff who are members of the scheme and who *(a)* are made redundant, *(b)* take early retirement on grounds of ill health and *(c)* take early retirement on grounds other than those of ill health. [272672]

Ann Keen: The enhancements available to staff who retire early are set out in the scheme regulations and a booklet entitled "Notes for pensioners and their dependants" which provides general guidance about their pension and related issues for example the process for payment of retirement benefits. In addition, a booklet containing guidance about the scheme is provided to all national health service staff on entry into the service and is also available on the NHS pensions website. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The specific arrangements are as follows:

(a) Staff over minimum pension age who are made redundant can elect to use their redundancy payment to pay for their pension to be taken early without actuarial reduction. For staff in post in October 2006, transitional arrangements allowing some enhancements are also available until October 2011.

(b) Since April 2008, the NHS pension scheme has two tier ill-health retirement arrangements. Staff who for reasons of ill-health are permanently incapable of efficiently discharging the duties of their employment (the 'tier 1 condition') are eligible for early payment of pension without reduction. Staff who are permanently incapable of regular employment of like duration (the 'tier 2 condition') in addition to meeting the tier 1 condition are eligible for an enhancement of two thirds of pensionable service until their normal pension age.

(c) The other forms of early retirement available are voluntary early retirement where the member has their pension reduced actuarially and retirement in the interests of the service where the employer pays for the cost of the members retiring without a reduction for early payment of pension.

Organic Food

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effects on public health of organic foods in the last 10 years. [272574]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has advised that it has commissioned an independent systematic literature review to evaluate the evidence on nutrient content differences between organic and conventionally-produced foodstuffs and any associated health benefits. The review has just been completed and the results have been submitted by the researchers to a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The full review report will be made available at the same time as the summary results are published in the scientific press.

The agency continues to assess new research on organic foods as it is published.

Swine Flu: Royal Family

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made arrangements to monitor the health of members of the royal family during the current outbreak of swine influenza in Mexico. [272587]

Dawn Primarolo: The royal family has its own medical advisers to monitor their health. Clearly, all information issued by this Department is available to everyone, including members of the royal family.

Telecommunications: Health Hazards

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on public health of long-term exposure to wireless internet networks. [272881]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advises the Government in relation to the protection of communities from radiation hazards, including those associated with exposure to non-ionising radiation such as the radio waves from wireless communication systems. The agency has concluded that there is no consistent evidence to date that exposure to radio waves from wireless networks adversely affects the health of the

general population. On the basis of current knowledge and experience, exposures are likely to be lower than those from mobile phones and well within the internationally accepted guidelines from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The Agency also considers it sensible, as with any new technology, to adopt a precautionary approach, and keeps the situation under review.

HPA announced in October 2007 that it was to carry out a systematic programme of research into wireless local area networks (WLANs) and their use. At the same time HPA stressed that it had good reasons to expect the results from this research to be reassuring and that there is no reason why schools and others should not use wireless fidelity (WiFi) equipment. This work is ongoing and expected to be complete in 2010. It includes assessments of exposures around selected items of WiFi equipment through measurements and computer modelling and is part of the Agency's ongoing programme of work in the area of electromagnetic fields. Details can be seen on the HPA web site at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733726123?p=1171991026241

In addition to its own research, HPA monitors studies being carried out by others, and conducts comprehensive reviews of the scientific evidence. Its independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising radiation (AGNIR) also prepares reviews of the evidence for health effects. The most recent AGNIR review of health effects in relation to radio waves was published in 2003 (see Documents of the NRPB, volume 14, number 2) and this is also available on the HPA website. AGNIR is about to prepare another review of the health effects of radio wave exposures and this is expected to take two to three years to complete.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which CDC investee companies have been sampled for the purposes of estimating their tax payments in each of the last five years. [268414]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: As part of its continuing development evaluation work, CDC started to collect tax payment data from its investee companies last year.

CDC collects this information in relation to both subsidiary and non-subsidiary investee companies. As at 31 December 2008, CDC had received tax payment data from 272 investee companies. A list of these companies will be placed in the Library of the House.

The tax payment data are used by CDC to calculate an aggregate tax paid figure for all its investee companies.

Malawi: Health Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's funding for health services in Malawi on the number of unfilled *(a)* nursing, *(b)* midwifery and *(c)* doctor posts in Malawi's health services in the last three years. [272351]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £109 million of funding to health services in Malawi over the six-year period 2005-11 including £45 million to the Emergency Human Resource Programme (EHRP).

DFID's recent assessment is that the funding has led to increases in the numbers of nurses, midwives and doctors working in Malawi's health services in the last three years:

(a) The number of registered nurses has increased from 3,250 to 4,450

(b) The proportion of health centres with two staff members having midwifery skills, has increased from 23 per cent. to 48 per cent.

(c) The number of practising doctors has increased from 140 to 190.

Although vacancy rates of health staff remain high, 77 per cent. for nurses and 67 per cent. for doctors, our assessment is that this does not reflect the real progress made. This is due to the fact that in 2006 the Ministry of Health conducted a Functional Review of the health sector which increased the number of health sector posts from 23,114 to 42,309, greatly raising the number of unfilled posts.

Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by how much the monetary value of the Government's official development assistance has fallen as a result of the decline in the value of sterling in the last 12 months; what assessment he has made of the effect of this decline on the Government's commitment towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and if he will make a statement. [269084]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: It is not the policy of the Government to comment on the value of sterling.

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed in the Budget that the UK remains on track to meet the target of raising development aid to 0.7 per cent. of national income by 2013.

WALES

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272122]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department's main listed office building in London does not have an air conditioning system greater than 250kW.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the

Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [272123]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department's listed office building in London does not have an air conditioning system greater than 250kW and inspections under the regulations are not required. We also lease office space in Cardiff, but air conditioning systems and inspections are provided as part of the building infrastructure and are the responsibility of the landlord.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional annual value of such provision is. [271935]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No exclusive office facilities are provided in Wales Office premises but as our staff are employed by Ministry of Justice or the Welsh Assembly Government, office facilities are offered by each of these organisations.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has spent on security for *(a)* legal companies and *(b)* witnesses. [257121]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised that the Bloody Sunday inquiry has spent approximately £3.4 million on security to the end of January 2009. There have been no specific costs incurred by the inquiry associated with providing security for either legal teams or witnesses.

Various security measures were provided by the Government in relation to security for witnesses. These measures ranged from physical protection by the police and security guards, to IT security for the protection of witness information. Given the nature of such security measures, the duration of the inquiry and the distribution of costs throughout various Government Departments and agencies, I am advised that a figure could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Criminal Investigation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) on how many occasions and in what circumstances the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Historical Enquiries Team has departed from its policy of investigating deaths in chronological order; and if he will make a statement; [273055]

(2) how many investigations undertaken by the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Historical Enquiries Team have related to the death of a *(a)* police officer, *(b)* member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, *(c)* member of the Army other than the Ulster Defence Regiment and *(d)* civilian; and if he will make a statement; [273060]

(3) how many deaths the Historical Enquiries Team has investigated to date; of those investigated how many cases have *(a)* been closed, *(b)* been referred for prosecution and *(c)* led to successful prosecutions; and if he will make a statement. [273062]

Paul Goggins: These are operational matters for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and copies of his letters will be placed in the Library of the House.

Independent Monitoring Commission

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the Independent Monitoring Commission to publish its next report. [273100]

Mr. Woodward: I have received the 21st report of the Independent Monitoring Commission and will publish it shortly.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Complaints

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many Police Service of Northern Ireland police officers have been disciplined for concealing shoulder numbers in each of the last five years; [273054]

(2) how many complaints have been made against Police Service of Northern Ireland police officers for concealing shoulder numbers in each of the last five years. [273052]

Paul Goggins: Dealing with such complaints is the operational responsibility of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. I have asked the chief executive to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for copies of the letters to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Manpower

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff work in the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Historical Enquiries Team. [273053]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many racially-motivated assaults in Northern Ireland were reported in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how many successful prosecutions there were arising from such assaults. [273097]

Paul Goggins: In 2006-07 there were 251 and in 2007-08 there were 204 reported racially-motivated assaults/wounding. Data include the offence categories of, 'wounding with intent', 'grievous bodily harm with intent', 'wounding', 'grievous bodily harm', 'assault occasioning actual bodily harm', 'common assault', 'aggravated assault' and 'assault on police'.

The information sought on successful prosecutions is not available. Legislation for racial hatred is provided for by way of The Criminal Justice (No. 2) (Northern Ireland) Order 2004. Under this order, penalties for convictions for specified violent offences can be increased by the court if racial hatred, sexual orientation, gender or disability was an aggravating factor. Court data do not contain background information in relation to offences committed and it is therefore not possible to separate out the number of successful prosecutions for racially motivated offences in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many anti-Semitic assaults occurred in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [273098]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 826W, on trade unions, which trade unions his Department's agencies recognise. [271920]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office agencies attach great importance to ensuring effective consultation and involvement of its staff. It is a personal decision whether or not to join a trade union; however the agencies encourage staff to join an appropriate trade union and to play an active part in it, ensuring their views are represented.

Members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office agencies are currently represented by the following trade unions:

Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA);

First Division Association (FDA);

Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS);

National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT);

Prison Officer's Association (POA);

Unison;

Prison Governor's Association (PGA).

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in each year since 2004, broken down by *(a)* age of recipient and *(b)* offence. [272022]

Maria Eagle: The number of penalty notices for disorder (PND) issued since 2004 in England and Wales, broken down by age group and offence is shown in tables 1 to 4.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders aged 16 to 17 years by offence, England and Wales 2004-07[1]

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Higher Tier Offences (£80)				
Wasting police time	69	215	353	327
Misuse of public telecommunications system	6	24	79	106
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	8	6	15	15
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	1,968	5,846	8,122	7,068
Throwing fireworks[2]	20	90	101	102
Drunk and disorderly[3]	1,328	2,354	3,009	2,941
Criminal Damage (under £500)[4]	103	1,408	2,866	2,796
Theft (retail under £200)[4]	167	1,806	3,861	4,474
Breach of fireworks curfew[5]	—	4	7	3
Possession of category 4 firework[5]	3	2	6	5
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework[5]	18	42	69	106
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[6]	—	2	1	1
Supply of alcohol to a person under 18	—	—	5	1
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18[4]	6	79	91	77
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18[4]	7	20	45	51
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises	—	21	17	13
Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery[4]	1	20	24	36
Lower Tier Offences (£50)				
Trespassing on a railway	17	73	256	291
Throwing stones at a train/railway	2	5	4	10
Drunk in a highway	31	103	149	106
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	20	56	136	172
Depositing and leaving litter[4]	11	185	253	301
Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[4]	7	74	67	85
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[4]	1	2	—	1
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18[6]	—	17	62	158
Total				
Total Higher Tier Offences	3,704	11,939	18,671	18,122
Total Lower Tier Offences	89	515	927	1,124
Total all offences	3,793	12,454	19,598	19,246

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 5 March 2004.
[3] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004.
[4] Offence added with effect from 1 November 2004.
[5] Offence added with effect from 11 October 2004.
[6] Offence added with effect from 4 April 2005.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders aged 18 to 20 years by offence, England and Wales 2004-07[1]

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Higher Tier Offences (£80)				
Wasting police time	236	499	726	778
Misuse of public telecommunications system	19	55	117	182

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders aged 18 to 20 years by offence, England and Wales 2004-07[1]

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	8	27	31	32
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	8,145	17,998	21,664	20,091
Throwing fireworks[2]	70	189	193	211
Drunk and disorderly[3]	6,511	9,292	10,735	11,555
Criminal Damage (under £500)[4]	354	3,290	5,521	5,482
Theft (retail under £200)[4]	342	3,381	6,036	7,239
Breach of fireworks curfew[5]	1	9	13	10
Possession of category 4 firework[5]	2	8	3	4
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework[5]	2	3	1	—
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[6]	—	5	10	17
Supply of alcohol to a person under 18	—	—	18	17
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18[4]	29	486	660	737
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18[4]	27	77	176	296
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises	—	21	17	30
Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery[4]	7	95	151	207
Lower Tier Offences (£50)				
Trespassing on a railway	26	54	228	348
Throwing stones at a train/railway	13	5	5	5
Drunk in a highway	279	389	335	275
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	100	103	155	293
Depositing and leaving litter[4]	19	212	357	393
Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[4]	—	3	5	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[4]	2	1	2	1
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18[6]	—	2	5	—
Total				
Total Higher Tier Offences	15,753	35,435	46,072	46,888
Total Lower Tier Offences	439	769	1,092	1,315
Total all offences	16,192	36,204	47,164	48,203

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 5 March 2004.
[3] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004.
[4] Offence added with effect from 1 November 2004.
[5] Offence added with effect from 11 October 2004.
[6] Offence added with effect from 4 April 2005.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders aged 21 and over by offence, England and Wales 2004-07[1]

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Higher Tier Offences (£80)				
Wasting police time	866	1,811	2,854	2,861
Misuse of public telecommunications system	92	326	713	905
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	28	59	60	49
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	18,677	40,163	52,449	50,668
Throwing fireworks[2]	87	363	388	336
Drunk and disorderly[3]	18,770	25,392	29,812	32,500
Criminal Damage (under £500)[4]	733	7,470	12,233	11,668
Theft (retail under £200)[4]	1,563	16,810	28,875	33,433
Breach of fireworks curfew[5]	11	20	33	26
Possession of category 4 firework[5]	7	3	19	13
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework[5]	—	2	6	—
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[6]	—	25	36	63
Supply of alcohol to a person under 18	—	3	37	36
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18[4]	78	1,493	2,444	2,769
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18[4]	50	73	186	208
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises	—	41	26	21
Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery[4]	12	94	122	188
Lower Tier Offences (£50)				
Trespassing on a railway	53	93	558	888
Throwing stones at a train/railway	51	10	6	10
Drunk in a highway	2,187	2,646	2,228	1,685
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	365	353	770	1,079
Depositing and leaving litter[4]	21	340	559	680
Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[4]	—	7	3	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[4]	3	24	12	9
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18[6]	—	2	6	—
Total				
Total Higher Tier Offences	40,974	94,148	130,293	135,744
Total Lower Tier Offences	2,680	3,675	4,142	4,351
Total all offences	43,654	97,823	134,435	140,095

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 5 March 2004.
[3] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004.
[4] Offence added with effect from 1 November 2004.
[5] Offence added with effect from 11 October 2004.
[6] Offence added with effect from 4 April 2005.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Table 4: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over by offence, England and Wales 2004-07[1]

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Higher Tier Offences (£80)				
Wasting police time	1,171	2,525	3,933	3,966
Misuse of public telecommunications system	117	405	909	1,193
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	44	92	106	96
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	28,790	64,007	82,235	77,827
Throwing fireworks[2]	177	642	682	649
Drunk and disorderly[3]	26,609	37,038	43,556	46,996
Criminal Damage (under £500)[4]	1,190	12,168	20,620	19,946
Theft (retail under £200)[4]	2,072	21,997	38,772	45,146

Table 4: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over by offence, England and Wales 2004-07[1]

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Breach of fireworks curfew[3]	12	33	53	39
Possession of category 4 firework[3]	12	13	28	22
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework[3]	20	47	76	106
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[6]	n/a	32	47	81
Supply of alcohol to a person under 18[5]	—	3	60	54
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18[4]	113	2,058	3,195	3,583
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18[4]	84	170	407	555
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises	—	83	60	64
Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery[4]	20	209	297	431
Lower Tier Offences (£50)				
Trespassing on a railway	96	220	1,042	1,527
Throwing stones at a train/railway	66	20	15	25
Drunk in a highway	2,497	3,138	2,712	2,066
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	485	712	1,061	1,544
Depositing and leaving litter[4]	51	737	1,169	1,374
Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[4]	7	84	75	85
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[4]	6	27	14	11
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18[6]	n/a	21	73	158
Total				
Total Higher Tier Offences	60,431	141,522	195,036	200,754
Total Lower Tier Offences	3,208	4,959	6,161	6,790
Total all offences	63,639	146,481	201,197	207,544

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 5 March 2004.

[3] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004.

[4] Offence added with effect from 1 November 2004.

[5] Offence added with effect from 11 October 2004.

[6] Offence added with effect from 4 April 2005.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Ashwell Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what factors he took into account when deciding on the nature of the review of the disturbance at HM Prison Ashwell on 11 April 2009. [272820]

Mr. Hanson: There are a number of types of incident where the National Offender Management Service automatically initiates an investigation and the disturbance at Ashwell was clearly a matter which required investigation.

The Chief Operating Officer of NOMS was the Commissioning Authority for the investigation. He asked the Head of National Operations Group, who has significant operational experience to lead the investigation, supported by the Governor of HMP Stafford.

I will make the findings of the investigation and our conclusions on it available to the House in due course.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers constitute the normal night staff team at HM Prison Ashwell; and how many prison officers were on duty on the night of 10-11 April 2009. [272830]

Mr. Hanson: The normal staffing levels for night patrol at HMP Ashwell are eight operational support grades (OSG), four prison officers and one senior officer. On the night of 10-11 April staffing levels exactly matched normal levels with the addition of another senior officer who was on induction for night duties and was shadowing a colleague.

Bribery Bill: Draft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice from which organisations he has received representations on the draft Bribery Bill; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation received. [272600]

Maria Eagle: The draft Bribery Bill was published 25 March 2009 for pre-legislative scrutiny. Since its publication the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has written to the Justice Secretary to welcome the publication of the draft Bill and to urge its adoption as early as possible. There will be the opportunity for other organisations to make representations to the committee undertaking pre-legislative scrutiny in Parliament.

Community Service Orders

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse has been of advertising the Community Payback scheme; and what role members of the public have in determining the work undertaken by offenders. [272072]

Mr. Hanson: The Community Payback campaign aims to raise awareness of Community Payback by inviting members of the public to vote for unpaid work to be completed by offenders in their area.

Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice, £63,000 has been spent on advertising Community Payback across 59 pioneer areas in England and Wales in March/April 2009. Funding was provided by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice incurred no costs. The campaign invited the public to vote on a selected number of projects running in participating areas or to nominate new projects.

In 2007-08 55,771 people successfully completed community payback sentences. This amounts to over eight million hours of labour, used to benefit the community. The majority of the public surveyed in 2008 wanted to have a say on the type of work that was undertaken by offenders.

The Mayoral Project which involves Mayors and Civic Leaders to identify and sponsor Community Payback work project during their year in office, incurred no advertising costs nationally.

Crown Dependencies: Prisoners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners from Crown Dependencies are serving time in British prisons for drug or alcohol-related offences. [272631]

Mr. Hanson: British Crown Dependencies consist of the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey and the Isle of Man and their citizens are British citizens. Any prisoners from the British Crown Dependencies are therefore included in the total number of British national prisoners and cannot be separately identified.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force. [272126]

Maria Eagle: From the information collected so far, the Ministry of Justice has spent £142,920 on carrying out inspections of air conditioning within departmental buildings that we have information for in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the regulations came into force. We are still awaiting returns and I will write to the hon. Member providing an updated figure when I have complete information.

Drugs: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply of illegal drugs in each year since 1997; and how many received a custodial sentence in each case. [272027]

Maria Eagle: The available information is contained in the following tables.

Figures for 2008 will be available later this year.

Number of persons given custodial sentences[1] for possessing[2] or supplying[3] illegal drugs, 1997-2007

	Supply	Possession
1997	5,699	1,005
1998	5,914	1,505
1999	5,899	1,665
2000	5,484	1,529
2001	5,378	1,548
2002	5,322	1,361
2003	5,666	1,315
2004	5,838	1,093
2005	5,719	1,174
2006	6,341	1,526
2007	7,054	1,827

[1] These figures include fully suspended and suspended sentences (Suspended sentence order introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into force on 4 April 2005 and replaced the previous fully suspended sentence.)
[2] Offence of having possession of a controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.5(2).
[3] Offence of having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply and offence of supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971s.4(3).
Notes:
1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
3. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the possession and supply of illegal drugs in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Possession	Supply
1997	27,576	9,065
1998	35,782	9,368
1999	36,516	8,786
2000	33,844	7,948
2001	34,958	7,619
2002	38,134	7,752
2003	39,633	8,295
2004	27,801	8,506
2005	27,319	8,804
2006	28,040	8,561
2007	31,722	9,006

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
OCJR – E & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform – Evidence and Analysis Unit

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what local authority electoral registration departments *(a)* use and *(b)* do not use cross-referencing of other local authority databases to assist in increasing levels of electoral registration. [273101]

Mr. Wills: The Electoral Commission has issued guidance to Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) encouraging them to use their powers to inspect records. The guidance also contains advice on the records that may be inspected. In addition, the Commission published a final set of performance standards for EROs in Great Britain in July 2008. These standards required EROs to provide information on their use of databases available to them. The Commission published the results of EROs' self-assessments against the performance standards in April 2009.

Performance Standard No. 1: 'Using information sources to verify entries on the register of electors and identify potential new electors', aims to ensure that EROs use the appropriate sources of information to verify records on the existing register of electors and identify potential new electors who come into the authority area. To meet the standard EROs are required to proactively identify and use the records they are entitled to inspect, throughout the year, to verify and validate data held on the electoral register.

The Commission's analysis of the returns for this standard shows that over half of EROs across Great Britain assessed themselves as above the performance standard, with 40 per cent. meeting the standard and a small minority (18 EROs) below the standard.

We will be discussing with the Commission how the performance standards programme can be developed.

National Offender Management Service

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that there is no duplication in the workload of National Offender Management Service regional directors and HM Prison Service area managers; and if he will make a statement. [272374]

Mr. Hanson: One of the key objectives of NOMS is to protect the public and reduce re-offending. The new regional directors of offender management (DOM) will be accountable for this objective by achieving effective integration of the work of all agencies across the region. Each will lead by developing relationships and creating and implementing a strategic vision focused on outcomes. Optimising the integration of the prison and probation services at local and regional levels will be a key part of their role to protect the public, reduce re-offending and improve performance.

Following a comprehensive review and restructure of the regional organisation, the role of Area Manager no longer exists. Instead, each DOM will be supported by a team of regional managers, each with a specific portfolio of work, in line with overall strategy, reporting to the DOM.

The demarcation lines between the strategic role of the DOM and the more delivery focused roles of their senior management Team will remove the opportunity for duplication.

Prison Service: Management

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission a review of the effectiveness of management at HM Prison Service headquarters; and if he will make a statement. [272375]

Mr. Hanson: The effectiveness of management at NOMS headquarters is under constant review through the use of Key Performance Targets and either the Senior Civil Service or NOMS performance management system. The agency also has a management and leadership development framework in place to assess and develop managers' behavioural competence and effectiveness. I do not believe there is a need to commission a separate review.

Prisoners Release

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released in each month since the inception of the end of custody licence scheme, broken down by category of offence. [272866]

Mr. Straw: Information on the number of prisoners released under the end of custody licence (ECL) scheme each month and by offence group can be found in the following tables.

The figures presented in the answer are published monthly and available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Monthly ECL releases by offence group

	Violence against the person[1]	*Sexual offences*[1]	*Robbery*	*Burglary*	*Theft and handling*
29 June-5 July 2007	344	0	24	149	404
6-31 July 2007	350	2	54	210	475
August 2007	439	0	48	247	582
September 2007	402	0	50	260	486
October 2007	495	2	50	241	573
November 2007	494	0	34	222	594
December 2007	467	0	60	225	566
January 2008	484	1	60	231	502
February 2008	467	2	53	186	574
March 2008	536	1	61	218	623
April 2008	500	0	75	258	573
May 2008	472	0	70	217	599
June 2008	507	0	71	268	630
July 2008	532	0	60	229	649
August 2008	534	1	61	218	545
September 2008	569	0	82	246	616
October 2008	541	0	78	223	637

Monthly ECL releases by offence group

	Violence against the person[1]	Sexual offences[2]	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling
November 2008	508	0	61	242	555
December 2008	569	0	60	258	647
January 2009	461	0	70	234	515
February 2009	425	0	51	229	519
March 2009	554	0	61	274	582

	Fraud and forgery	Drug offences	Motoring offences	Other offences	Offence not recorded	All offences
29 June-5 July 2007	37	65	259	427	32	1,701
6-11 July 2007	42	92	298	692	37	2,131
August 2007	44	95	328	866	44	2,493
September 2007	44	103	289	567	50	2,195
October 2007	29	122	323	733	40	2,612
November 2007	56	114	301	766	40	2,610
December 2007	39	100	293	660	44	2,455
January 2008	38	99	287	657	37	2,386
February 2008	57	105	279	692	43	2,458
March 2008	60	102	332	691	51	2,675
April 2008	52	136	305	766	38	2,631
May 2008	53	105	294	681	31	2,532
June 2008	54	117	257	724	56	2,670
July 2008	64	129	274	670	48	2,626
August 2008	62	113	279	648	39	2,486
September 2008	57	112	272	749	46	2,745
October 2008	59	103	324	773	35	2,775
November 2008	38	113	283	766	40	2,539
December 2008	58	117	291	746	49	2,795
January 2009	42	100	246	572	42	2,292
February 2009	46	104	213	643	40	2,310
March 2009	57	128	268	776	49	2,749

[1] Includes serious violent offences such as murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to commit grievous bodily harm, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, child cruelty and serious explosives offences. A full list of exclusions can be found in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 (which consolidates and replaces PSI 27/2007).

[2] Prisoners subject to the notification requirements of the Sex Offenders Act 1997/Sexual Offences Act 2003 are excluded from release on ECL. Not all offences of a sexual nature are subject to the notification requirements; such prisoners are therefore eligible for release on ECL.

Prisons: Public Consultation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the statement of 27 April 2009, on prisons and probation, when he plans to begin consultations on the proposed prison site at Curborough; when he expects to publish the exact location of the proposed site; when he expects to announce his decision on whether to site a prison at Curborough; and if he will make a statement. [272098]

Mr. Straw: As I announced on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-80, we will not be proceeding with the 2,500 place 'Titan' prisons, but we will be building 1,500 place prisons instead. There are no current plans for prisons on any of the sites listed other than those named by me in Parliament on 27 April.

The site at Curborough was one of a number of sites brought to the attention of the National Offender Management Service as part of the site search exercise for 'Titan' prisons to hold 2,500 prisoners. It was assessed, but not considered suitable for development as a Titan.

Special Educational Needs: Tribunals

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of special education needs tribunals in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [272259]

Bridget Prentice: The First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal) (SEND) does not hold the information in a readily available format. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Tribunals Service does, however, hold data on the total annual running costs for the last five years (including departmental overheads, except 2005-06), as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	6.476
2004-05	6.376
2005-06[1]	5.136
2006-07	6.558
2007-08	5.633

[1] Department for Education and Skills (DFES) overheads are not disclosed in the annual report

The figures prior to 2006-07 can be found at appendix. 1 of each of the annual reports produced by the Department for Education and Skills and published on the SEND website:

www.sendist.gov.uk

The 2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are taken from the audited accounts of the Tribunals Service.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people per 10,000 of the population in Northern Ireland were prosecuted for non-payment of the television licence fee in each of the last three years. [273099]

Bridget Prentice: Information is not available for 2006 as centrally collated data only became available with the implementation of a new IT system.

In 2007, 5,901 people were prosecuted, representing a rate of 40 per 10,000 of the population, 4,466 were convicted and 1,435 cases were withdrawn or dismissed. In 2008 5,272 people were prosecuted representing a rate of 30 per 10,000 of the population, 4,123 were convicted, and 1,149 cases were dismissed or withdrawn.

The information for 2008 is provisional.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which trade unions are recognised by each of his Department's executive agencies. [271950]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice recognises the Public and Commercial Services Union and the FDA across the whole of the organisation including its executive agencies.

Prospect are recognised within Her Majesty's Court Service.

HMPS recognise the following trade unions: The Professional Trades Union for Prison, Correctional and Secure Psychiatric Workers (POA) and The Prison Governors Association (PGA).

The following work together with the National Offender Management Service under the title National Offender Management Service Trade Unions (NOMSTUS): Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), Prospect, FDA and Royal College of Nursing (RCN).

The following work together with HM Prison Service under the title of Prison Service Joint Industrial Council (PSJIC): Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT), GMB, AMICUS, UCATT.

Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring into effect the debt management scheme provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. [272044]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to supporting consumers in unexpected difficulties and are considering measures for providing real and timely assistance to those encountering debt problems. As part of this, we are currently reviewing the implementation of part 5 of the Act. It is expected that an announcement will be made on this shortly.

Victim Support Schemes: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department has made available for victim support services in 2009-10. [272690]

Maria Eagle: Victim Support has been granted £30 million core funding for 2009-10 from the Ministry of Justice.

In addition Victim Support has been allocated £6.2 million in 2009-10 to finance Victim Support Plus.

Wandsworth Prison: Inspections

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons a scheduled inspection by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons of HM Prison Wandsworth did not take place in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [272373]

Mr. Hanson: No inspection of HM Prison Wandsworth by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons was scheduled in 2008. The Chief Inspector carried out a full announced inspection of HMP Wandsworth in May 2004 with an unannounced follow up to that inspection in June 2006. The next scheduled inspection will be in June this year.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

62 South Eaton Place

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department owns the property at 62 South Eaton Place, London for the purposes of the Land Registry. [253890]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

My Department holds this property by way of a leasehold interest although as is normal legal title is vested in the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as the property forms part of the Government's civil estate.

Angling: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on angling, if she will ensure that the review of planning application fees takes into account the effect on the construction of fishing lakes by commercial enterprises of changes in the levels of *(a)* planning fees and *(b)* mineral extraction charges. [273472]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are currently conducting a review of planning application fees and as part of that review, we are assessing the effect of recent increases on the construction of fishing lakes.

Audit Commission: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 752W, on publicity, what projects were undertaken by each of the public relations companies hired by the Audit Commission; and for what reason the Commission did not use its own staff in each case. [272332]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 6 May 2009:

Your Parliamentary question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Geronimo Communications—£45,600

The Audit Commission contracted with Geronimo, an advertising and communications company, to supply an interim Director of Communications to cover the gap between the resignation of Jenny Grey, who left the Audit Commission to become Director of Communications at the Cabinet Office, and the appointment of a successor. The payment covered the services of a senior executive with board level experience, Marina Pirotta, from June to October 2008. Ms Pirotta brought experience and knowledge that was, by definition, not available within the commission.

Consolidated Communications—£137,700

The Audit Commission contracted with Consolidated Communications, a communications and public relations company, in 2006 and 2007 during a period of substantial reorganisation of its publishing and media relations. Consolidated offered advice and support, replacing functions that, temporarily, were not available in house.

Fishburn Hedges—£141,900

In order to set up Comprehensive Area Assessment, the Audit Commission is creating, in collaboration with other inspectorates, new ways of reaching out to the general public, and providing them with information about how their areas are fairing. Graphics and branding specialists from Fishburn Hedges were appointed in autumn 2008 to carry out research and graphical development. The Audit Commission did not have these skills in house.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Community Development: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many community projects formerly funded by her Department have had their funding from her Department discontinued in the last 12 months; [272869]

(2) how many community projects funded by her Department have started in the last 12 months. [272870]

Mr. Khan: The Department provides funding to local authorities and national or regional third sector organisations for a range of projects and initiatives designed to support communities. However most community projects are funded locally and so information about the total number of projects started in the last 12 months or those which are no longer funded is not held centrally.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many groups receiving funding from local authorities in support of work to prevent violent extremism use subcontractors; what measures are in place to monitor the work of such subcontractors; and if she will make a statement. [271516]

Mr. Khan: As the hon. Member will know, funding in support of the preventing violent extremism agenda is provided through Area Based Grant to local authorities. Area Based Grant is a mechanism for providing non-ring fenced funding to local authorities to enable them to deliver their area priorities. Local authorities are responsible for monitoring the use and performance of subcontractors and have their own mechanisms in place for doing so.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1644-5W, on community relations: religion, which organisations each of the regional faith forums has funded to date. [272150]

Mr. Khan: Funding is provided to the forums by Communities and Local Government for them to take forward the regional strand of the inter faith framework, "Face-to-Face and Side-by-Side". The regional faith forums are not grant making bodies. However we are aware that in some circumstances they may fund third party organisations to support the wider regional implementation of the inter faith framework. We do not routinely collect this information but believe this to amount to no more than £10,000.00 nationally during 2008-09.

Conveyancing: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on *(a)* the property search fees levied by each local authority and *(b)* variance between local authorities in property search fees. [272341]

Margaret Beckett: The Department holds information on those local authorities who made available information on the fees charged for local inquiries (CON29) search of 1 April 2007, which showed that the average fee charged for a CON29 search was £114 and ranged from £28 to £244. We are currently collecting data on the fees charged by local authorities as of 1 April 2009 following the implementation of the Local Authorities (England)(Charges for Property Searches) Regulations 2008.

Council Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing units were held by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords in each region in each year since 1997. [273347]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the total number of dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords in each region in each year from 1997.

Thousands of dwellings

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West
Rented from local authorities									
1997	298	523	441	293	410	302	621	258	224
1998	292	509	434	289	402	295	596	278	214
1999	286	485	427	280	381	290	575	268	184
2000	276	445	419	265	354	277	553	252	170
2001	233	416	397	257	316	273	530	235	156
2002	227	405	386	242	301	251	516	226	153
2003	207	326	344	226	257	231	500	221	146
2004	190	308	326	218	238	226	483	206	140
2005	170	267	273	214	232	206	468	199	136
2006	163	241	265	211	222	196	457	202	129
2007	154	207	248	209	218	188	451	193	120
Rented from Registered Social Landlords									
1997	47	153	66	48	101	97	204	186	84
1998	48	159	69	50	114	100	219	196	85
1999	49	178	73	58	126	105	239	205	114
2000	53	212	75	69	150	114	250	217	133
2001	90	225	89	74	179	117	271	234	146
2002	89	237	92	84	187	132	279	243	148
2003	99	300	118	94	216	142	287	246	150
2004	106	299	121	94	221	153	291	258	158
2005	116	322	161	94	229	171	296	261	161
2006	114	337	162	94	225	181	300	282	167
2007	118	355	174	92	222	188	295	269	173

Sources:
1. Census 2001;
2. Housing Flows Reconciliation and joint returns by local authorities;
3. Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities;
4. Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords

Council Tax

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each local authority area in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* England have been prosecuted for non-payment of council tax in each year since 1999. [272911]

John Healey: The administration of council tax is a matter for individual local authorities and data on prosecutions for non-payment in England are not collected centrally. Council tax policy in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Councillors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1101W, on councillors: Arun, whether the Audit Commission plans to require local authorities to disclose the bank account details of councillors held in their payroll databases as part of the National Fraud Initiative exercise for 2010-11. [273473]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, 6 May 2009:

Your Parliamentary question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The 2010/11 National Fraud Initiative will collect data from local authorities beginning in October 2010. All local authorities are required to submit payroll data for all of their employees and councillors and the data fields submitted will include bank account numbers and sort codes. This information is used to detect undeclared bank accounts in circumstances where for example a benefit claimant has failed to declare income, but the actual account details are not disclosed. Data matches merely indicate whether two bank accounts are the same or different and neither the sort code or the account number is reproduced.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [272132]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1104W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the regulations came into force; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272140]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government occupies one building, Eland House, which has an air conditioning system with an output greater than 250 kW, where the Department has responsibility for inspecting and controlling the equipment in line with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. The Department holds a current inspection report for this system and a copy of the document will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269850]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Property Asset Management Plan published in March 2009, which sets out an overarching five year vision for corporate property assets and property services across the Department's group, comprising our central headquarters, the Government office network and all our other arm's length bodies (ALBs). The plan is formally reviewed annually and is available on the CLG website:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/assetmanagementplan

I also refer the hon. Member to the Operational Efficiency Programme final report:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/oep_final_report_210409_pu728.pdf

which identifies the further work to be undertaken on the QEII Conference Centre.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on consultancy contracts in 2008-09. [272585]

Mr. Khan: This information will be available in the Department's annual report which will be published in June.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 313W, on departmental furniture, how many chairs were ordered from Herman Miller in 2007-08; and what the model and cost of each was, including value added tax. [272541]

Mr. Khan: Pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 313W, on departmental furniture, the number, model and cost of the chairs, including VAT, ordered from Herman Miller by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2007-08 are detailed as follows.

Model	*Quantity*	*Unit cost*[1] *(£)*
Vista (visavis)	148	267.80
Dean	16	381
Hay	6	424

[1] Inclusive of VAT

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of her Department in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [269549]

(2) what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of her Department was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [269584]

(3) how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of her Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if she will make a statement; [269606]

(4) how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of her Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [269629]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government (CLG), in line with the approach adopted by the cross-Government Chief Information Officers (CIO) Council, has produced a 'CIO Green ICT Roadmap' which my Department will be following to deliver against the 18 target improvement areas outlined in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

The Greening Government ICT strategy has been established to:

make energy consumption of our ICT systems carbon neutral by 2012, and

make them carbon neutral across their lifetime (including manufacture and disposal) by 2020.

CLG is in the process of introducing the basic Quick Wins steps into our procurement strategies and this will assist our procurement officers moving forward.

A full Report of the CIO Council Green ICT Roadmaps is scheduled to be made available by the Cabinet Office in May featuring the action plans of all Departments (including CLG) involved in this initiative.

CLG operates a large-scale, multi-vendor supply chain delivering a wide range of ICT categories. Obtaining the level of specific detail requested in these PQs would be likely to have significant cost implications and involve removing key staff from urgent delivery programmes.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on maintaining its website in the last 12 months. [273092]

Mr. Khan: We do not hold the information in the format required. The Department pays for its intranet, corporate site and info4local on the same contracts and is not able to break this cost down further. Across all three websites we paid £446,124 in 2008-09 for annual hosting charges, licensing, application support and maintenance and development.

Eco-Towns: Marston Vale

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the report prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers for her Department on the Marston Vale eco-town proposal. [272344]

Margaret Beckett: The promoters of Marston Vale eco-town withdrew their proposals in early February 2009 and are no longer part of the Eco-towns Programme. Therefore they were not included in the Financial Viability Study of the Eco-towns Programme which we published on 5 March 2009.

Eco-Towns: Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations have responded to the Government's consultation on the draft planning policy statement on eco-towns. [272154]

Margaret Beckett: The consultation on the eco-towns programme, including the draft Planning Policy Statement closed on 30 April 2009. Following our review of the consultation responses we will publish a Government response together with consultation summary report of responses received, including a list of organisations that responded to the consultation.

Empty Property: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the new houses completed in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency between 2003 and 2008 were vacant in October 2008. [273371]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Council Tax Base and Council Tax-Base supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) return, reported by local authorities to CLG, includes the total number of long term and short term vacancies in a local authority area.

The following table gives the total number of vacant dwellings in Castle Point district authority and Essex at 6 October 2008, the latest date for which figures are available.

County/local authority	*Number of long term empty dwellings (empty for more than six months)*	*Total number of empty dwellings*
Essex	6,223	18,365
Castle Point	311	877

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities.

Those dwellings vacant for less than six months are more likely to be empty for a short period following a sale before the new owner occupies it, where the property needs work to be carried out before it can be occupied, or where the property is in probate and are seen as 'transactional' vacant dwellings and are thus a characteristic of the housing market.

It is therefore sometimes more appropriate to look at long term vacancies rather than the total number of vacant dwellings.

European Union

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions she has visited Brussels on official business in the last 12 months. [272876]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has been to Brussels once on official business in the last 12 months.

Fire Services

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* original estimated and *(b)* current estimated (i) cost and (ii) completion date is of the (A) Durham, (B) Warrington, (C) Wakefield, (D) Castle Donington, (E) Wolverhampton, (F) Cambridge, (G) Taunton, (H) Fareham and (I) Morden regional control centre of the FiReControl project; and if she will make a statement. [272604]

Mr. Khan: There was no capital outlay for the buildings as the Department procured them through a private developer scheme. The lease cost was established through the procurement. The risk of construction costs rested with the developer. The FiReControl Business Case Part 2, published in November 2008, available in the House Library outlines lease costs.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 346W, which outlines the practical completion date for each region.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire engines have *(a)* entered and *(b)* left service in the last 12 months. [272871]

Mr. Khan: The number of fire engines which have entered and left service in the last 12 months is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Closures

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations have closed in the last 12 months. [273093]

Mr. Khan: This information is reported in annual returns to the Department, and the latest data show that one fire station closed in England in 2007-08.

Fire Services: Death

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters have died in the last 12 months as a result of injuries sustained in the course of their duties. [272873]

Mr. Khan: No firefighters died as a result of injuries sustained in the course of duty in 2008-09.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 316W, on fire services: industrial disputes, whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Offices for the Regions hold copies of the contingency plans of fire and rescue authorities in the event of industrial action in the fire service. [272329]

Mr. Khan: We do not hold copies of the contingency plans prepared by fire and rescue authorities in relation to industrial action.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place for the provision of fire cover in the event of national industrial action by firefighters. [272426]

Mr. Khan: The provision of fire cover within a fire and rescue authority in the event of industrial action is the responsibility of that fire and rescue authority, whether the dispute is local or national in extent.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether firefighters from other fire and rescue authorities will be asked to cross picket lines to provide emergency fire cover in the event of localised industrial action in a fire and rescue authority. [272442]

Mr. Khan: The question of whether firefighters from another fire and rescue authority would be asked to cross any particular picket line would be a matter for the respective fire and rescue authorities.

Fire Services: Influenza

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment the London Regional Resilience Forum has made of the effect of an influenza pandemic on the operation of a fire and rescue service in London. [272420]

Mr. Khan: The London Regional Resilience Forum is responsible for strategic, multi-agency planning and for ensuring that London as a whole is fully prepared to deal with the consequences of an influenza pandemic on public health and the continuity of essential services in London. It is the statutory responsibility of individual Category 1 responders themselves, including the London fire brigade, to ensure that they are prepared and have business continuity processes in place to manage the effects of an influenza pandemic.

Fire Services: Labour Turnover

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters have *(a)* entered and *(b)* left the fire and rescue service in the last 12 months. [272872]

Mr. Khan: The latest data available on the number of firefighters entering and leaving the fire and rescue service are for 2007-08 and are shown in the following table.

Firefighters entering and leaving the fire and rescue service, England, 2007-08

	Joiners	*Leavers*
Whole-time	1,014	1,467
Retained	752	1,130
Total	1,766	2,597

Fire Services: Uniforms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on the design of new uniforms for fire and rescue services; and what public consultation it carried out on the design. [272878]

Mr. Khan: A nationally available contract for the provision of uniforms, personal protective equipment and other clothing was awarded by Firebuy Ltd., as the national procurement body for the English fire and rescue service, to Bristol Uniforms Ltd. in 2007. The design of the new uniforms was undertaken by this supplier. Firefighers and union representatives were consulted on the design as part of the garment trials in 2006, to which Communities and Local Government contributed £190,000. The views of the general public were also considered through surveys conducted in 2007. Firebuy have subsequently participated in presentations on the new uniform to fire and rescue authorities.

Firebuy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether papers related to the Firebuy project are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [272429]

Mr. Khan: Firebuy Ltd., as an executive non-departmental public body of Communities and Local Government, is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. It has produced a publication scheme in accordance with the FOI Act.

Government Offices For The Regions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Government Office Network's Places handbook. [272413]

Mr. Khan: The Places Handbook has been developed as a tool to help Government Office (GO) staff and their partners support the delivery of Government policy. It is an online Handbook that provides quick and easy

access to a range of analytical and delivery tools and techniques, as well as links to appropriate data sources. As the Places Handbook is an online facility I have been advised that it is not suitable for placing in the Library. Instead, I am providing the email link to the Places Handbook which is accessed by the public via the internet:

http://www.gos.gov.uk/placeshandbook/

Green Belt: East Midlands

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the East Midlands Regional Plan proposes to make to green belt designation and protection in the region. [273217]

Mr. Khan: The East Midlands Regional Plan, published on 12 March 2009, makes no specific changes to green belt designation in the east midlands. However, the Three Cities Sub-Regional Strategy Policy 2 (Sub-Regional Priorities for Green Belt Areas) states that:

"The principle of the Nottingham-Derby and Burton-Swadlincote green belts will be retained. However a comprehensive review of the most sustainable locations for growth within the Nottingham Core HMA and Hucknall will be required urgently to consider how to accommodate future growth requirements over at least the next 25 years. As this may include considering locations within the green belt, when implementing this review through their local development documents, local planning authorities will have regard to:

the level of growth proposed in Regional Plan Policy 13a and in Three Cities SRS Policy 3 identifying the locations for future development;

sustainable development principles;

the principles and purposes of including land in Green Belt set out in PPG2; and

where changes to the Green Belt are proposed, the retention of existing, or creation of new, defensible boundaries based on natural features or other barriers such as major roads.

This review will need to be done as part of the evidence base underpinning the next RSS review."

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget for administrative costs of the Homes and Communities Agency is in each of the next three years. [270575]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) inherited running costs budgets of £86 million per annum from its predecessor bodies. Obviously with the publication of the Operational Efficiency Programme on 21 April, my Department in conjunction with its arms length bodies, is currently reviewing the scope for making further operational efficiency savings in the current spending period. Budgets for 2011-12 fall in the next spending period and decisions have yet to be made.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1111-12W, on Homes and Communities Agency: finance, how much each local authority will receive from the £50 million to enable local authorities to deliver new social housing; and how many homes she expects to be delivered through that funding. [272480]

Margaret Beckett: The allocation of grant funding is dependent on the bids submitted by local authorities. Likewise the number of homes delivered will depend on the details of the bids submitted, for example whether they are flats or houses.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency spent on producing its Affordable Housing Survey publication; and how many copies were produced. [272509]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor body, the Housing Corporation, spent £160,000 on producing its Affordable Housing Survey. There were no hard copies produced of the report; it is freely and publicly available on the Homes and Communities website at:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authority tenants were in receipt of housing benefit in each of the last five years. [273346]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the proportions of registered social landlord and local authority tenants in receipt of housing benefit from 2002-03 to 2006-07 are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

Social sector households in receipt of housing benefit, England, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Tenure			
	Local authority	*Registered social landlord*[1]	*All social renters (percentage)*	*Total number of social renters (Thousand)*
2002-03	64	60	62	2,483
2003-04	64	59	62	2,428
2004-05	62	61	61	2,366
2005-06	62	60	61	2,357
2006-07	63	63	63	2,489

[1] Sometimes referred to as Housing Associations.

Source:
Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing

Survey based estimates of the separate numbers of local authority and registered social landlord tenants are not considered robust as a significant number of registered social landlord tenants wrongly report that they are local authority tenants, typically when ownership has transferred due to a large-scale voluntary transfer.

Housing Market

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 24-26WS, on home buying and selling, who the members of the working group on home condition reports are; and what declaration of political activity each has made. [272338]

Margaret Beckett: The membership and terms of reference of the "Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process" are available on the CLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/homeconditionworkinggroup

There is no requirement on the members of the working group to declare political activity.

Housing: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £600 million announced for housing in the Budget 2009 is additional to that announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [272427]

Mr. Iain Wright: All of it.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations are participating in the Social HomeBuy scheme; and how many properties were sold by each participating organisation in each of the last three years. [272114]

Margaret Beckett: A table has been deposited in the Library showing how many *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations are currently taking part in the Social HomeBuy scheme; and number of sales by each participating organisation per year from 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 886-7W, on housing: low incomes, what budget has been established for the *(a)* the National Affordable Housing Programme, *(b)* Decent Homes, *(c)* the Community Infrastructure Fund, *(d)* support for the Department for Work and Pensions programme of Support for Mortgage Interest and *(e)* other housing and regeneration programmes in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [272199]

Mr. Khan: The following table includes capital budgets for each of the listed areas in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11:

Programme

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
	to nearest £ million[1]		
National Affordable Housing programme	2,629	3,471	2,299
Decent Homes	1,291	1,278	848
Community Infrastructure Fund	37	123	160
Support for Mortgage Interest (DWP programme)[2]	0	40	55
Other housing and regeneration programmes (Growth Areas and Thames Gateway, Regional Housing Pot, Housing Market Renewal and the Homes and Communities Agency's Property and Regeneration programme)	1,272	1,462	1,243

[1] Figures are provisional and may be subject to amendment through the financial year

In addition, £108/£152/£147 million resource (near cash) has been made available for other housing and regeneration programmes. These figures do not include additional funding to support the housing market announced in the Budget on 22 April 2009:

Programme

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*Total*
			to nearest £ million
Stalled sites fund	320	80	400
Local authority house building	30	70	100
Housing energy efficiency	75	30	105

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of implications for her Department's policy on affordable housing of the findings of the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Survey; and whether she plans to take steps in response to its recommendations. [272507]

Margaret Beckett: The purpose of this Affordable Housing Survey was to establish an understanding of the quality of schemes delivered prior to the introduction of new quality standards by the then Housing Corporation in April 2007, to enable the impact of introducing the new standards to be evaluated in the future.

We have already taken action and have put in place policies and legislation to make sure that poorly designed housing is not repeated. Through the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Planning Act 2008, we are ensuring that design quality is a key consideration for local authorities and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The emphasis must now be on more effective implementation. We expect future surveys to show increasing improvement as the policies bed down and reflect the new HCA standards.

The challenge going forward is to apply these new standards and policies across the board and the HCA and local authorities will play a lead role in making that happen.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what percentage of HomeBuy applicants have registered an interest in *(a)* the First-time Buyers Initiative, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct, *(c)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(d)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(e)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(f)* OwnHome; [272578]

(2) what the average period between an applicant first making an application and a decision being taken on that application has been for the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First-time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each of the last three years; [272815]

(3) what targets have been set for HomeBuy agents to process applications; and what steps are in place to ensure that agents process applications within an acceptable time; [272816]

(4) what percentage of people registering for HomeBuy to date have expressed an interest in New Build HomeBuy. [272762]

Margaret Beckett: The data sought on expression of interest and applications are not held centrally.

Under the terms of their contract with the Homes and Communities Agency, HomeBuy Agents who administer the HomeBuy scheme and the First-time Buyers Initiative are required to send applicants confirmation of their eligibility status within eight working days of receipt of a fully completed application form.

HomeBuy agents are required to provide a monthly self-assessment of compliance against Key Performance Standards, which are monitored by, and discussed with, the Homes and Communities Agency at regular contract review meetings.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* affordable housing and *(b)* homes for social rent built in each of the last five years had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more bedrooms. [272580]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table will be placed in the Library of the House which shows the percentage of social rented and affordable homes delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme by the number of bedrooms. These figures are only available from the Homes and Communities Agency's Investment Management System, so will not cover the total number of new build social rent and affordable homes.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2007-08, a total of 53,730 additional affordable homes, of which 29,370 were for social rent homes, were provided.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* affordable housing and *(b)* homes for social rent built in each of the last five years were (i) apartments and (ii) houses. [272581]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table will be placed in the Library of the House which shows the percentage of social rented and affordable homes delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme by apartments and houses. These figures are only available from the Homes and Communities Agency's Investment Management System so will not cover the total number of new build social rent and affordable homes.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2007-08, a total of 53,730 additional affordable homes, of which 29,370 were for social rent homes, were provided.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of her Department's expenditure on *(a)* OwnHome, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* HomeBuy Direct, *(d)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(e)* Social HomeBuy, *(f)* the First-Time Buyers Initiative, *(g)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(h)* MyChoice HomeBuy in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement; [272755]

(2) what costs her Department has incurred in the administration of *(a)* OwnHome, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* HomeBuy Direct, *(d)* Rent to Buy HomeBuy, *(e)* Social HomeBuy, *(f)* the First-time Buyers Initiative, *(g)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(h)* MyChoice HomeBuy on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement; [272763]

(3) what her Department's total expenditure was on *(a)* OwnHome, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* HomeBuy Direct, *(d)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(e)* Social HomeBuy, *(f)* the First-time Buyers Initiative, *(g)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(h)* MyChoice HomeBuy to date. [272764]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency expenditure to the end of 2008-09 on *(a)* OwnHome, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* HomeBuy Direct, *(d)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(e)* Social HomeBuy, *(f)* First-time Buyers Initiative, *(g)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(h)* MyChoice HomeBuy is as follows:

		£ million
(a)	OwnHome	22
(b)	New Build HomeBuy	639
(c)	HomeBuy Direct	0
(d)	Rent to HomeBuy	88
(e)	Social HomeBuy	3
(f)	First-time Buyers Initiative	213
(g)	Open Market HomeBuy[1]	350
(h)	My Choice HomeBuy	115

[1] Includes OwnHome and My Choice HomeBuy

On expenditure on Social HomeBuy in the local authority sector I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1693-694W.

£400 million has been made available for the HomeBuy Direct scheme. In addition, a proportion of the £400 million announced in the Budget to unlock stalled housing developments will also be spent through HomeBuy Direct. Scheme funding is currently available up to the end of 2010-11. The precise level of spend will depend on take-up.

Expenditure on the First-time Buyers Initiative is forecast to be around £13 million in 2009-10, with no further expenditure in future years.

We have not allocated specific funds in 2009-10 and 2010-11 for the other categories listed to allow full flexibility within the National Affordable Housing Programme operated by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Future estimated levels of expenditure beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the next spending review.

The administration costs incurred by Communities and Local Government for the HomeBuy programme and the First-time Buyers' initiative form part of the overall cost for the policy and delivery of affordable housing.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much initial equity homebuyers on average have purchased through the New Build HomeBuy scheme to date. [272760]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average value and percentage of equity for properties purchased under New Build HomeBuy schemes in England since 2006-07, when the New Build HomeBuy scheme started.

New Build HomeBuy

	Average value of equity (£)	*Average percentage of equity*
2006-07	77,290	48
2007-08	77,620	45

Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns from Registered Social Landlords to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average amount of assistance provided to a home purchaser under the New Build HomeBuy scheme has been to date. [272761]

Margaret Beckett: The assistance provided under New Build HomeBuy is in the form of grant for the provision of the property which enables the property to be sold in stages on shared ownership terms. The national average amount of grant per unit provided through the Homes and Communities Affordable Housing Programme for new Build HomeBuy to date is £28,374.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on housing: low incomes, which local authorities offer cash incentive schemes to assist their tenants in purchasing houses; [272854]

(2) how many houses have been sold via local authority cash incentive schemes in each year since 1997. [272855]

Mr. Iain Wright: As reported by local authorities through the 2007-08 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, the following local authorities in England provided cash incentive scheme grants, under section 129 of the Housing Act 1988, to assist tenants to acquire an interest in a new home in 2007-08:

Barnet
Bournemouth UA
Camden
Carrick
Chesterfield
Croydon
Dartford
Ealing
Enfield
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Harrow
Hillingdon
Ipswich
Kingston upon Thames
Lambeth
Lewisham
Mid Devon
North Cornwall
North Hertfordshire
Norwich
Purbeck
Redbridge
Redditch
Selby
South Cambridgeshire
St. Albans
Tendring
Three Rivers
Tower Hamlets
Wandsworth
Warwick
Watford
West Somerset
Westminster
Woking
Wycombe

The figures supplied count only the number of local authorities giving cash incentive scheme grants under section 129 of the Housing Act 1988, and they also do not include any local authorities offering cash incentive scheme grants under these provisions where none were taken up in the year.

The Department does not collect data on the number of properties purchased with the assistance of cash incentive scheme grants, but for the number of cash incentive scheme grants made in each year since 1997 in England under section 129 of the Housing Act 1988, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 554-56W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck).

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the remit of her Department's Lean Six Sigma for local government initiative is. [272447]

Mr. Khan: Six Sigma, or any other business transformation technique, is not specifically recommended for use in local government by the Department. The National Process Improvement Project (NPIP), funded by the department and run by London borough of Lewisham, asked pilot local authorities to examine the application of a variety of service transformation tools and techniques to different service areas, and created best practice guidance to their use based on generic principles and irrespective of specific methodology.

This guidance forms part of the Business Improvement Package:

www.bip.rcoe.gov.uk

and is in the process of being fully transferred to the local government sector with regional improvement and efficiency bodies taking forward the learning on a regional basis.

Local Government Information Unit

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of

10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 318W, on the Local Government Information Unit: finance, for what project the Local Government Information Unit provided consultancy services in 2008; and whether the Unit produced a report on the project. [272347]

Mr. Khan: Pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 318W, further investigation has found that in 2008 the Local Government Information Unit in fact provided research services rather than consultancy services for 'The Role of Councillors to inform the Commission on Local Councillors'.

A paper was produced and assisted in informing and producing the report of the Councillors Commission, titled 'Representing the Future'. This was presented to the Secretary of State and published for wider dissemination in December 2007.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 318W, on the Local Government Information Unit: finance, for what project the Local Government Information Unit provided consultancy in 2009; and what the reimbursed legal fees related to. [272330]

Mr. Khan: In 2009 the Local Government Information Unit was paid for research work prepared earlier for the "Learning Network on the Role of Councillors in Neighbourhood Working- LGR 65/12/174" project.

The reimbursement of legal fees related to the legal costs incurred by LGIU in consulting on extension/ termination of arrangements regarding a secondment to Hazel Blears' office.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much will be provided from the Homes and Communities Agency's budget for *(a)* the Repossession Prevention Fund, *(b)* the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, *(c)* the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme and *(d)* the measures announced to increase the level of homebuilding in the 2009 Budget in each of the next three years. [272212]

Margaret Beckett: The Repossession Prevention Fund will be funded directly from my Department's budget not the Homes and Communities Agency budget.

For the Mortgage Rescue Scheme the HCA budget for 2009-10 will include £140 million and for 2010-11 will include £95 million.

The Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme will be funded directly from my Department's budget not the HCA budget.

As a result of the Budget 2009 the HCA will receive an additional £450 million over the next two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) to help increase the levels of house building. This is broken down as follows:

£400 million to unlock currently stalled developments by providing development finance, and additional funding for social and affordable housing, including help for first time buyers.

£50 million to enable local authorities to deliver new social housing over the next two years.

Budgets for 2011-12 are dependent on the outcome of the next spending review.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether property owners in negative equity are eligible for assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme; [272448]

(2) what changes to the eligibility criteria for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme she proposes to make to extend eligibility to property owners in negative equity; and whether those with no equity will be eligible for assistance under the scheme. [272449]

Margaret Beckett: In the Budget 2009 it was announced that the Mortgage Rescue Scheme criteria will be expanded to include eligible households previously excluded due to negative equity. This change will come into effect from 1 May 2009.

All households are now able to apply for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme so long as they meet all the other eligibility criteria and the value of their mortgage (and any additional secured loans) is less than 120 per cent. of the value of their home.

This change reflects our commitment to keep the scheme under review in order to maintain flexibility in the light of changing market conditions.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many months arrears are required for a homeowner to be eligible for assistance under *(a)* the Mortgage Rescue scheme and *(b)* the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme. [272451]

Margaret Beckett: Neither the Mortgage Rescue scheme nor Homeowners Mortgage Support have a requirement for households to be in arrears for a specified period in order to access the schemes.

For the Mortgage Rescue scheme, lenders are expected to demonstrate that they have used their full range of hardship tools—including in most cases three months' forbearance—before a household applies for support.

For Homeowners Mortgage Support, households need to have demonstrated that they have had a temporary loss of household income and to have been making regular payments (but not necessarily in full) in agreement with their lender for at least five months.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government within how many years of purchase must a home be repossessed in order for mortgage lenders to be eligible for payment under the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme. [272457]

Margaret Beckett: Homeowners Mortgage Support will enable eligible borrowers who suffer a temporary loss of income to cut their mortgage interest payments for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances and avoid repossession. The Government will guarantee the lenders against a proportion of any loss incurred on the deferred interest payments in case the borrower defaults.

The period in which claims can be made under the guarantee will last for four years after the borrower comes off the scheme. As a condition of participation in the scheme, lenders will need to commit to best practice in forbearance when the borrower exits the scheme, and agree reasonable and affordable repayment schedules, with the aim of keeping any subsequent repossessions to a minimum.

A claim would be made once the property had been sold, if the equity remaining in the property was insufficient to clear the debt. The period of four years was set following discussions with stakeholders to ensure that repossession is prevented wherever possible, and is always a last resort.

Following this period, the liability returns to the lender, since it is assumed that a household still remaining in their home for that long will be continuing to make normal payments by that time.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which banks are not participating in the Homeowner Mortgage Support scheme. [272462]

Margaret Beckett: My written ministerial statement of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS, set out those lenders signed up to the Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) scheme, those lenders who will offer HMS as soon as possible and those lenders offering comparable arrangements. This represents around 80 per cent. of the mortgage market.

We will continue to work with the remaining 20 per cent. of the market including many smaller lenders, to encourage as many as possible to offer HMS or comparable arrangements for their customers in the future. A list of UK lenders is available in the "Council of Mortgage Lenders year book and directory of lenders and associated services, 2008-09" (which covers around 98 per cent. of the market).

Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications were made in each of the last four quarters. [272203]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of planning applications made in each of the last four quarters for which data are available in England is tabled as follows:

Period	*Number received (Thousand)*
January to March 2008	158
April to June 2008	149
July to September 2008	135
October to December 2008	111

Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns PSI/PSF

Regional Government: Mass Media

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each *(a)* Government Office and *(b)* regional assembly spent on media monitoring services in each of the last three years. [272415]

Mr. Khan: Government Office costs for media monitoring services in each of the last three years is as follows:

Government office	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09* £
North East	[1]3,000	3,000	[1]—
Yorkshire and The Humber	16,450	12,885.05	[1]—
North West	0	0	[1]—
East Midlands	0	0	[1]—
West Midlands	0	0	0
East of England	[2]6,500	3,000	[1]—
South West	29,553	6,627	[2]7,097
South East	0	0	0
London	976.15	4,515.87	1,275.89

[1] In 2008-09 the Government Office Network contracted media monitoring services for five Government Offices at a cost of £28,793.38.
[2] Plus VAT.

Details of any media monitoring costs for regional assemblies is not held centrally and there would be a disproportionate cost incurred in trying to obtain this information.

Repossession Orders: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions initiated by *(a)* building societies and *(b)* banks there were in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [273375]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2108

The CML data on repossessions are no longer freely available from their website. For detailed time series information members of the public can request to subscribe to CML to obtain access to a restricted website.

The Financial Services Authority data is available on their website at

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

The CML and FSA release slightly different figures. The CML data is for repossessions on first-charge mortgages only, including Buy-to-Let mortgages, as issued by their members. CML estimate that their lenders currently account for 98 per cent. of mortgage lending. The FSA data, as well as covering possessions on first-charge mortgages, covers possessions on second-charge loans by regulated firms (many second charge lenders are not regulated) but doesn't cover possessions as comprehensively on Buy-to-Let mortgages, as some of these are from unregulated firms. The overall effect of the differences is that the FSA's statistics on possessions are slightly higher.

Smoke Alarms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to encourage the use of smoke detectors in domestic properties. [272874]

Mr. Khan: It has been our policy for some time that smoke alarms have a vital role to play in saving lives as they provide the vital early warning of fire and therefore help people to escape. Since 1987, the Government have conducted high profile national and regional television campaigns promoting smoke alarms which have proved very successful. Ownership has increased from 9 per cent. in 1987 to the current level of 80 per cent. and we are seeking to raise it further as evidence suggests that those without alarms are often in those groups who are most at risk from fire. The Government are committed to running further smoke alarms ownership and maintenance campaigns as part of this years programme.

Furthermore, in 2004, Communities and Local Government invested £25 million pump priming capital over four years in the Home Fire Risk Check initiative. This funding resulted in just under 2 million Home Fire Safety Checks by fire and rescue services in England, installing over 2.4 million smoke alarms. Research into the impact of the Home Fire Risk Check initiative demonstrates it was responsible for 57 per cent. of the fall in accidental dwelling fire deaths. The research also concluded that the Home Fire Risk Check grant was responsible for 13,670 fewer fires and 888 fewer non-fatal casualties. The value placed on these figures showed a total benefit of £926 million to £1,943 million to the economy.

Tenant Services Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Tenant Services Authority to launch its National Conversation; and what budget has been allocated to it. [265261]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Conversation was launched on 19 January 2009. The budget allocated for the Conversation was £600,000.

Travelling People: South East

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1181W, on Travelling people: South East, how many responses to the South East England Regional Assembly consultation were received; and how many were returned for being discriminatory; [272766]

(2) from what source the South East England Regional Assembly took its legal advice on the treatment of responses to its consultation. [272767]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1181W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many charities were on the Charity Commission register in each of *(a)* the last 30 years and *(b)* the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [272400]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 6 May 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many charities were on the Charity Commission register (a) in each of the last 30 years and (b) in each of the last 12 months.

With regard to your question attached below are tables which set out the number of main (reporting) charities that were on the Register for each of the last 30 years, by financial year, and each of the last 12 months.

Financial year	*Total of main (reporting) charities*
1978-79	101,956
1979-80	105,238
1980-81	109,012
1981-82	112,338
1982-83	115,967
1983-84	119,643
1984-85	123,455
1985-86	127,221
1986-87	131,074
1987-88	135,113
1988-89	138,804
1989-90	142,592
1990-91	145,969
1991-92	142,205
1992-93	138,613
1993-94	147,863
1994-95	153,880
1995-96	157,994
1996-97	156,919
1997-98	159,988
1998-99	162,370
1999-2000	160,189
2000-01	160,625

Financial year	*Total number of main (reporting) charities*
2001-02	161,715
2002-03	163,355
2003-04	165,412
2004-05	166,675
2005-06	167,321
2006-07	168,855
2007-08	169,306
2008-09	168,580

Month	*Total number of main (reporting) charities*
April 2008	169,574
May 2008	169,374
June 2008	169,398
July 2008	169,638
August 2008	169,695
September 2008	169,742
October 2008	169,666
November 2008	168,675
December 2008	168,416
January 2009	168,552
February 2009	168,561

Month	Total number of main (reporting) charities
March 2009	168,500

Main (reporting) charities are those required to prepare accounts and to send an Annual Return to the Charity Commission or, if their income is less than £10,000, inform the Commission of changes to the information we hold on the Register of Charities. The figures above exclude subsidiary and group charities as these report to the Commission through the charities listed above. As of 30 April 2009, there were 22,662 subsidiary and group charities.

Our website provides regular updates on the key facts and figures of the Register and further explanations of terms at:

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/showcharity/registerofcharities/registerhomepage.aspx?&=&

I hope this is helpful.

Charities: Bank Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1577W, on local government: bank services, what information *(a)* the Office of the Third Sector and *(b)* the Charity Commission received from (i) the Financial Services Authority, (ii) the Bank of England and (iii) HM Treasury on the level of risk associated with charities investing in Icelandic banks between October 2007 and October 2008. [271940]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector received no information from the Financial Services Authority, the Bank of England and HM Treasury on this issue.

I have asked the Charity Commission to reply to the question as it refers to it.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated May 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on the information the Charity Commission received from (i) the Financial Services Authority, (ii) the Bank of England and (iii) HM Treasury on the level of risk associated with charities investing in Icelandic banks between October 2007 and October 2008.

The Charity Commission received no information from these bodies on this issue.

As the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, the role of the Charity Commission is not to provide advice to charities on specific investments but to provide advice on the general powers and duties of trustees in relation to the investment of charitable funds. As such, our guidance for charities states that the fundamental principle governing trustees' decisions about investing their charity's funds is that they must take a prudent approach, considering both the suitability for their charity of any investment and the need for diversification.

This guidance specifically emphasises that, before making investments and when reviewing them, trustees must obtain and consider advice from a suitably qualified adviser, unless the size of the funds available for investment is so small that seeking investment advice wouldn't be cost effective.

The Commission itself is legally prohibited from offering specific investment advice to individual charities.

I hope this is helpful.

Civil Servants: Redundancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time civil servants have been made redundant in each of the last 10 years. [272641]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many (a) full-time and (b) part-time civil servants have been made redundant in each of the last 10 years. (272641).

The Office for National Statistics collects data on leavers from the Civil Service as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Full-time and part-time civil servants made redundant in the last 10 years[1,2]

	Permanent employees only		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total
1999[3,5]	1,590	100	1,690
2000[3,5]	1,000	60	1,060
2001[3,5]	1,040	40	1,080
2002[3,5]	690	40	730
2003[3,5]	1,450	90	1,540
2004[3,5]	800	60	850
2005[3,5]	360	50	410
2006[3,6]	1,150	270	1,420
2007[4,7]	1,600	410	2,000
2008[4,7]	2,700	1,080	3,770

[1] Includes civil servants who have taken 'compulsory early retirement' or 'compulsory early severance'. Excludes civil servants who are over pension age.
[2] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Data sourced from the Mandate collection (1999-2006), undertaken by Cabinet Office, which provides approximately 85 per cent. coverage of civil service Departments and Agencies.
[4] Data sourced from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007 and 2008), undertaken by ONS, which provides 100 per cent coverage of civil service Departments and Agencies.
[5] Survey reference date 1 April.
[6] Survey reference date 30 September.
[7] Survey reference date 31 March.

Source:
Mandate data collection and Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Deaths: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many alcohol-related deaths there were in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in the last 12 months. [273247]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated may 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol-related deaths there were in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in the last 12 months. (273247)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* the East of England government office region and *(b)* Suffolk county, for 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], East of England Government Office region and Suffolk county[2], 2007[3]

Area	Deaths (persons) 2007
East of England	573
Suffolk	62

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] All figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the electoral registration rates are for each local authority, ranked from highest to lowest; and how much each such authority spent on electoral registration per elector in the latest period for which figures are available. [272732]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the electoral registration rates are for each local authority ranked from highest to lowest; and how much each such authority spent on electoral registration per elector in the latest period for which figures are available. (272732)

The closest approximation to the registration rates that you have requested is the number of people who were registered to vote in Local Government elections as a percentage of the estimated resident population aged 18 and over. The table shows these percentages for each Local Authority in the UK in 2007. This is the latest year for which estimates of the usually resident population are available by Local Authority. A copy of the table has been placed in the Library of the House.

Care should be taken when interpreting these percentages. There may be an underestimation in some areas, as not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote. For example foreign citizens from outside of the EU and Commonwealth are not eligible to vote.

Conversely, for other areas the percentages may be over estimates and, in some cases, exceed one hundred per cent as figures for the registered electorate may be inflated. People who have more than one address may register in more than one place (e.g. students may register at parental and term-time addresses) and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died.

Data on how much each local authority spent on electoral registration per elector are not currently available. As part of its work in developing Performance Standards for electoral services, the Electoral Commission launched a financial information survey across Great Britain on 10 September 2007. Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers were asked to complete the survey and return it by 31 July 2008.

The Commission is currently analysing this information in conjunction with CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) and will publish results in due course. It will be for the Commission to decide whether it wishes to collect and publish financial information in relation to 2008-09.

Local Government: Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what records the Office of National Statistics holds on the number of people employed by individual local authorities. [271225]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what records the Office for National Statistics holds on the number of people employed by individual local authorities. (271225).

The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector, including Local Authorities in England and Wales as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES).

The results of this survey are published in aggregate as part of the Public Sector Employment First Release. The latest published statistics are for December 2008 and copies are available in the library of the House.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0309.pdf

The published statistics provide totals for the UK by sector classification, industry and Civil Service department. Statistics are not available for individual Local Authorities.

Employment totals of individual Local Authorities, collected by the QPSES, will be published for the first time by Local Government Association (LGA) in June 2009.

Pensioners: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners with a net household income of less than £130 a week in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [273374]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners with a net household income of less than £130 a week in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. (273374)

The information requested is not available.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Ammunition: Exports

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W, on ammunition: exports, how many of the 67 licences related to exports to each country. [272318]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* The Government publish summary details of export licences issued, refused and revoked in their annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. This is broken down by destination, including a summary of the items covered by these licences.

The Government's annual reports, published since 1997, and quarterly reports, published since 2004, are available from the House of Commons Library and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1

The latest date for which information is available is 31 December 2008.

The annual report summary for munitions that are designed to create illumination or to act as an incendiary fall under the following goods descriptions:

Smoke hand grenades, smoke ammunition, signal flares, signal hand grenades, signal flares, incendiary hand grenades and illuminators.

The reports do not break down goods descriptions beyond this level of detail.

Better Regulation Executive: Manpower

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* annual budget and *(b)* number of staff employed by or in support of (i) the Better Regulation Executive and (ii) the Local Better Regulation Office has been in each year since their creation. [266931]

Ian Pearson: The Better Regulation Executive (BRE) was established in May 2005. Its budget was £7.6 million in 2006-07; £7.0 million in 2007-08 and £6.7 million in 2008-09. In 2005-06, the BRE inherited a budget of £3.9 million from the Regulatory Impact Unit (RIU). However, the BRE's workload was greater than the RIU and therefore in this year the BRE incurred an overspend.

The BRE employed 96 employees in 2005-06; 94 in 2006-07, 94 in 2007-08 and 99 in 2008-09.

The Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) was established in September 2007 and had a budget of £2.0 million in 2007-08 (£4 million pro rata); and £4.4 million in 2008-09. Additionally, the Welsh Assembly Government have commissioned the LBRO to undertake further specific work in Wales. In 2008-09, this grant was £234,000.

The LBRO employed a total of 24 employees in 2007-08 and 29 employees in 2008-09.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether individuals are eligible to apply for a loan through *(a)* the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and *(b)* the Working Capital Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [259067]

Ian Pearson: Businesses with a turnover of up to £25 million seeking loans of between £1,000 and £1 million are eligible to apply for a loan through any of the 26 lenders approved to administer the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. Since its launch on 14 January, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has nearly £300 million of eligible applications from over 2,600 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed.

Businesses cannot apply for direct support through the Working Capital Scheme. The scheme provides banks with guarantees covering 50 per cent. of the risk on existing and new working capital portfolios worth up to £10 billion, thereby freeing up lender capital for onward lending and benefiting businesses.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent on promoting the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme to potential borrowers since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [253632]

Ian Pearson: The Government are running a multi-media advertising campaign, "Real Help for Businesses Now", to raise awareness by businesses of the whole range of advice and support available to help them. Promotion of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee is integral to this campaign and it is therefore not possible to isolate a discrete figure.

Exports: Power Stations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy that fossil fuel plants exported with support of the Export Credits Guarantee Department include integrated carbon capture and storage technology. [271812]

Ian Pearson: It is ECGD's policy that projects it supports should comply with the relevant international standards.

The most recently published international standard relating to fossil fuel fired power stations is "Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines for Thermal Power Plants" published by the International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank Group) in December 2008.

Financial Reporting Council

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on which dates in the last three years his Department held meetings with the Financial Reporting Council to discuss the accounting practices of banks. [263436]

Ian Pearson: We have no records of any meetings specifically to discuss the accounting practices of banks, but there have been numerous contacts between BERR officials and members and officials of the FRC and its operating bodies over the last three years at which the matter of the accounting practices of banks will have been raised as one of the matters discussed.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* terms of reference, *(b)* estimated cost and *(c)* planned final reporting date are of Mark Gibson's review of engineering and construction industry productivity; what Mr Gibson's fee and expense arrangements are for conducting the review; and if he will make a statement. [271595]

Ian Pearson: The terms of reference of the review of productivity and skills in the engineering construction sector (the Gibson Review) are:

Building on the previous (2005) study commissioned by the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board the review would:

Assess the state of productivity in engineering construction in the UK (as 2005)

Identify the key inhibitors to productivity including skills aspects (as 2005)

Compare productivity levels with those experienced on overseas sites (as 2005)

Identify changes in practice, and factors, and their effect on productivity in the period since the ECITB 2005 review

Identify specifically the factors influencing success for UK-based companies bidding for UK and foreign, especially other European Union, engineering construction contracts (over the last six years)

Make recommendations on:

Ways to improve skills and productivity in the UK engineering construction industry.

What steps small firms can take to compete and to develop new skills and technologies in process

Strengthening the links between procurement of major public projects and provision of training through methods such as contracting

How procurement practices can be geared to support productivity in UK firms.

The estimated costs of the review are £250,000. The majority of these costs relate to staff time for BERR and DIUS officials in the review team.

There is no firm deadline for the completion of the review, although this is expected to be around autumn, 2009.

Mark Gibson is employed by the Whitehall and Industry Group (WIG). Mr. Gibson's services in connection with the review are covered by a contract between BERR and WIG to the value of £6,375 plus expenses, plus VAT.

WIG is an independent, not for profit, politically neutral organisation, whose purpose is to encourage better understanding between business and Government. Mr. Gibson will not benefit personally from the contract.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19, *(e)* 20 and *(f)* over 20 years old have been in receipt of the national minimum wage applicable to them in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since its inception. [270219]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged (a) 16, (b) 17, (c) 18, (d) 19, (e) 20 and (f) over 20 years did have been in receipt of the national minimum wage applicable to them in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since its inception. (270219)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). However, estimates for the number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage are available. The lowest geographical breakdown of estimates of all employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage published by the ONS is Government Office Region. Furthermore, estimates for the number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage by region by age are not available, but UK estimates are published for employees aged 16 to 17, aged 18 to 21 and aged 22 and over.

I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage in the UK for all employees, for employees aged 16-17, aged 18-21 and aged 22 and over and for all employees only in the North East Figures are provided for each year since the inception of the national minimum wage in 1999.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of UK and North East jobs paid below minimum wage, 1999 to 2008

Thousand

	UK 16 to17-year-olds		*UK 18 to 21-year-olds*		*UK aged 22 and over*		*UK*		*North East*	
	No. of jobs below NMW	*%*	*No. of jobs below NMW*	*%*	*No. of jobs below NMW*	*%*	*No. of jobs below NMW*	*%*	*No. of jobs below NMW*	*%*
1999	..	..	40	2.4	460	2.1	490	2.1	*	..
2000	..	..	30	2.2	190	0.9	230	1.0	*	..
2001	..	..	40	2.1	210	0.9	240	1.0	*	..
2002	..	..	50	2.7	290	1.3	340	1.4	*	..
2003**	..	..	40	2.3	210	0.9	250	1.0	*	..
2004	..	..	x44	2.3	233	1.0	276	1.1	x19	1.9
2005	xx20	4.0	x55	3.0	233	1.0	308	1.2	xx16	1.6
2006	xx14	3.8	x64	2.3	238	1.0	296	1.2	xx15	1.5

Estimates of UK and North East jobs paid below minimum wage: 1999 to 2008

Thousand

	UK 16 to17-year-olds		*UK 18 to 21-year-olds*		*UK aged 22 and over*		*UK*		*North East*	
	No. of jobs below NMW	*%*	*No. of jobs below NMW*	*%*	*No. of jobs below NMW*	*%*	*No. of jobs below NMW*	*%*	*No. of jobs below NMW*	*%*
2007	xx16	4.0	x49	2.6	231	1.0	296	1.1	xx16	1.5
2008	xx17	3.9	x47	2.6	224	0.9	288	1.1	xx13	1.2

* Sample size too small for reliable estimate.
** These estimates for 2003 are produced using the annually revised data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2003.
Notes:
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.00 per hour (aged 18-21) or £3.60 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 1999 to 2000.
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.20 per hour (aged 18-21) or £3.70 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2001.
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.50 per hour (aged 18-21) or £4.10 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2002.
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.60 per hour (aged 18-21) or £4.20 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2003.
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.80 per hour (aged 18-21) or £4.50 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2004.
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.00 per hour (aged 16-17) or £4.10 per hour (aged 18-21) or £4.85 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2005.
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.00 per hour (aged 16-17) or £4.25 per hour (aged 18-21) or £5.05 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2006.
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.30 per hour (aged 16-17) or £4.45 per hour (aged 18-21) or £5.35 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2007.
Number of jobs paid at less than £3.40 per hour (aged 16-17) or £4.60 per hour (aged 18-21) or £5.52 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2008.
Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.
Key:
CV ≤ 5%
CV ≥ 5% and ≤ 10% x
CV ≥ 10% and ≤ 20% xx
Sources:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics, 1999-2008
Labour Force Survey, 1999-2003

Nigeria: Exports

Sir George Young: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reach a decision on the application for an export licence for goods for Nigeria referred to in the letter from the right hon. Member for North West Hampshire of 22 September 2008, and subsequent correspondence of 6 and 31 October 2008 and 23 March 2009. [271513]

Ian Pearson: An export licence for these goods was issued on 23 April 2009.

Royal Mail: Profits

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much profit General Logistics Systems made in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [263013]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* General Logistics Systems made a £114 million operating profit before exceptional items for the financial year 2007-08. For the first six months of financial year 2008-09 (period April to September 2008) it made an operating profit before exceptional items of £59 million.

Small Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Breed: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on allowing small businesses to access the £1 billion fund announced in December 2008. [255888]

Ian Pearson: On 14 January 2009, the Government launched the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) as part of a wider programme of Real Help for Business.

As of 22 April 2009, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has nearly £300 million of eligible applications from over 2,600 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed.

Small Businesses

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses operate in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and (d) England. [268470]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows the number of small businesses in the north-east and England at the start of 2007. Data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Businesses are classified as small if they have between zero and 49 employees.

	Number of small businesses
North-east	132,480
England	4,032,400

Source:
BERR SME Statistics 2007:
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/sme/

Estimates of the total number of small businesses (registered and unregistered) are only available at national and regional level, and not at parliamentary constituency level.

However, figures are available for the number of businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE to parliamentary constituency level. These figures exclude the very smallest businesses and we estimate that only 45 per cent. of businesses are registered for either VAT or PAYE.

The following table shows the number of registered small businesses in the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside as of March 2008.

	Number of registered small business
Jarrow constituency	1,320
South Tyneside	2,380

Source:
Office for National Statistics—'UK Business: Activity, Size and Location—2008'
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Sales

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on antisocial behaviour of levels of sales of alcohol from off-licences. [271601]

Mr. Coaker: No specific assessment has been made on the effect on antisocial behaviour of levels of sales of alcohol from off-licences, however the Government are aware that alcohol is a factor in some instances of antisocial behaviour and a number of actions have been taken to address the issue. These include the provisions in the Policing and Crime Bill which will introduce a mandatory code for all alcohol retailers, and will give licensing authorities new powers to clamp down on specific problems in their areas. We have also given £3 million to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in order to undertake multi-agency enforcement activities on specific alcohol-related problems. We have made available a further £1.5 million to our top 50 priority areas which have the highest levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder and public concern about drunk or rowdy behaviour. This money has been used to tackle under age sales, to confiscate alcohol from under 18s and to run communications campaigns to tell local people what action is being taken in their area.

A number of antisocial behaviour tools and powers are also available which include written warnings, home visits, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Parenting Orders/Contracts, crack house and premises closure orders, antisocial behaviour orders and dispersal zones. We have recently just finished a series of 13 regional Alcohol Enforcement Skills Development training workshops for front-line practitioners covering the use of these tools and powers and those available under the Licensing Act 2003. In addition, we are legislating to improve these powers, including increasing the fine for anyone not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) area, making it easier for the police to disperse antisocial drinkers, and introducing a new offence of persistent underage possession. We are also encouraging wider use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and have recently extended the alcohol arrest referral pilots to include under 18s. We are working across Government to take these actions forward.

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of mosquito teen deterrents in use. [270334]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the use of mosquito dispersal devices is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on payments to individuals subject to control orders for *(a)* accommodation, *(b)* council tax, *(c)* utility bills, *(d)* telephone line rental, *(e)* pre-paid telephone cards and phone bills and *(f)* other subsistence in each year since 2005. [264686]

Mr. Coaker: Expenditure on accommodation, council tax, utility bills, pre-paid telephone cards and other subsistence prior to April 2007 was absorbed by the UK Border Agency as part of spending on accommodation for asylum seekers. Figures covering the expenditure on accommodation for controlled persons could be retrieved only at disproportionate cost.

During the last two financial years the Department has spent the following amounts on accommodation, council tax, utility bills, pre-paid telephone cards and other subsistence:

	£
April 2007-March 2008	244,078.15
April 2008-(end of) February 2009	187,522.05

This expenditure could be broken down further only at disproportionate cost.

During the last three financial years, the Home Office has paid the following amounts on telephone line rental, bills and connection charges for those subject to control orders:

	£
April 2006-March 2007	3,186.59
April 2007-March 2008	2,209.39
April 2008-February 2009	1,635.13

This expenditure could be broken down further only at disproportionate cost.

Assaults on Police

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on police constables per 100,000 population were recorded in each police force area in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05. [271674]

Mr. Coaker: Data for assaults on all officers in England and Wales were published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary at the time. Links to these publications are provided below.

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/docs/HMIC_Annual_Report_2003-04.pdf

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc08/0842/0842.pdf

Asylum

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer from Lord West of Spithead of 29 October 2008, *Official*

Report, House of Lords, column WA165, on asylum seekers, how her Department ensures that asylum seekers with grounds to make an appeal or fresh claim are given the opportunity to do so before attending a re-documentation interview. [242460]

Mr. Woolas: Where an asylum claim falls to be refused, and the consequent immigration decision attracts a right of appeal, applicants are notified how to appeal and by when. The United Kingdom Border Agency is not required to wait for any appeal right to be exercised or any lodged appeal to be concluded before a re-documentation interview is arranged.

Case owners give full consideration to further representations, including whether they amount to a fresh claim, and decide on a case by case basis whether it is appropriate to suspend the re-documentation process in the light of those representations. The re-documentation interview is not prejudicial to the consideration of further representations or the outcome of any appeal.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were removed through *(a)* assisted voluntary returns and *(b)* enforced returns in each of the last five years. [242733]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of asylum seekers who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis.

The latest published annual information for the last four years can be found in table 7a of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, bulletin

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immih408.pdf.

Information prior to 2005 can be found in table 6.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of age assessments made by the UK Border Agency in 2008 have been successfully challenged on appeal. [269169]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the percentage of age assessments made by the UK Border Agency in 2008 that have been successfully challenged on appeal is not available. This is because our Case Information Database does not record the specific reasons why an appeal is allowed. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by the examination of a large number of individual case files.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases there were in the Legacy casework system on the latest date for which figures are available. [272032]

Mr. Woolas: The previous Home Secretary informed Parliament in July 2006 of

"the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's case load of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records, which as hon. Members also know, are riddled with duplication and errors, and include cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens"

The Case Resolution Directorate has concluded 155,500 cases up to 9 January and the chief executive of the UK Border Agency will update the Home Affairs Select Committee on case conclusion progress in the summer.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to have cleared the backlog of applications in the Legacy casework system. [272033]

Mr. Woolas: The Case Resolution Directorate aims to complete all cases in the asylum backlog by 2011 and is currently on track to do so.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications in the Legacy casework system were made in each of the last seven years. [272034]

Mr. Woolas: The work to clear the backlog of asylum cases was announced to Parliament in July 2006. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency provided an update on clearing the backlog of older cases to the Home Affairs Committee on 8 December 2008 and the next update is expected in the summer. To provide this information would involve a detailed examination of all our case records which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision will be made on the application for asylum by a constituent of the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes, Sima Salamat, Home Office reference number S1011503. [272357]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency sent a reply to the hon. Member on 30 April 2009.

Asylum: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted section 4 support in each of the last five years; and how many people were in receipt of section 4 support in each of those years. [263956]

Mr. Woolas: The table shows the number of failed asylum seekers granted section four support and those who were in receipt of section four support. Information on the number of failed asylum seekers receiving section four support is only available from March 2005.

The number of failed asylum seekers granted section four support and the number of people in receipt of section four support is published on a quarterly and annual basis.

The latest publication covering the fourth quarter of 2008 is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Number of asylum seekers who were granted section 4 support and in receipt of section 4 support, excluding dependants, 2005 to 2008[1,2]

	Number of principal applicants	
	Decisions to grant section 4	*Persons in receipt of section 4 at the end of the period*
2005	10,235	5,145
2006	6,025	6,555
2007[3]	6,705	9,140
2008[3]	9,110	10,295

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five.
[2] Information on Section 4 support prior to April 2007 is understated due to data quality issues associated with previous recording systems. The process of recording data on ASYS (the support database) improved the quality of the information.
[3] Provisional figures.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 69WS, on asylum support, in which areas the plastic payment card system for the administration of section 4 support is to be piloted; how many asylum seekers will be involved in the pilot programme; what the planned timetable for the pilot programme is; what the aims of the pilot programme are; what estimate she has made of the cost of the pilot programme; what criteria will apply in respect of its assessments; when she expects to publish an evaluation of the pilot programme; and if she will make a statement. [271647]

Mr. Woolas: The introduction of the Section 4 Support Card will be piloted in London and the north-west region and the plan is to issue the card to around 200 people.

The date for commencing the pilot programme has not yet been determined and planning for the pilot programme is at an early stage. I am unable to provide any more information at the present time. There are no plans to issue a statement.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 69WS, on asylum support, if she will provide section 4 support for asylum seekers in cash; and if she will make a statement. [271648]

Mr. Woolas: There are no plans to begin paying section 4 support to failed asylum seekers in cash.

Asylum: Terrorism

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those arrested on suspicion of terrorist offences since 11 September 2001 have at some point claimed asylum. [241282]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those arrested in the course of Operation Pathway claimed asylum after being arrested. [271668]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not normally disclose the immigration status of individuals.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 312W, on community relations, when she expects Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to report its findings in relation to its inspection of police Prevent activity. [271523]

Mr. Coaker: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary are nearing completion of their inspection of police Prevent activity, and plan to report their findings in May 2009, a month later than previously planned.

Community Relations: Contracts

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of the tasks to be undertaken under the Channel Project will be delivered by subcontractors. [271515]

Mr. Coaker: Channel relies on the full range of local partners, including statutory and community-based partners, to provide support packages for those individuals identified as vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism. These organisations are not funded through the Home Office's Channel grant. Home Office funding for Channel covers the costs of salaries for Channel co-ordinators.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1482W, on community relations: finance, how many of the 33 projects aimed at disrupting violent extremism will be delivered by subcontractors; and how the performance of those subcontractors will be monitored. [270569]

Mr. Coaker: Our delivery partners (subcontractors) are contributing to the delivery of 16 of the 33 projects aimed at disrupting violent extremism. Where they are being used, a number of systems are in place to monitor delivery including:

Internal evaluation schemes;

Project Board meetings or monthly update meetings;

Independent evaluation;

Progress reports;

Agreed action plans.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1481W, on community relations: finance, which of the grass roots projects aimed at tackling radicalisation funded by her Department are being delivered by subcontractors; and what measures are in place to monitor the performance of such subcontractors. [270587]

Mr. Coaker: The nine projects that are funded by the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism Prevent Unit are being delivered by subcontractors. The arrangements

in place to monitor these projects are through a third sector intermediary and their evaluation is overseen by internal researchers.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1481-82W, on community relations: finance, what projects aimed at preventing violent extremism are being undertaken by youth offending and youth secure establishments; and whether any of these projects are being run by subcontractors. [270674]

Mr. Coaker: There are currently 40 operational projects in Youth Offending Teams, Young Offender Institutions and Secure Training Centres across England and Wales that the Youth Justice Board have responsibility for. A further nine are due to undertake projects with immediate effect.

Projects range from mentoring to sport and arts based activities to civil and community lead initiatives. Project work with young people across the criminal justice sector ranges from light touch prevention projects working with those young people who have yet to enter the criminal justice arena, to more tailored interventions with young people on community and custody orders.

Youth Offending Teams, Young Offender Institutions and Secure Training Centres have been actively encouraged to work with a range of different community and third sector partners. They have also been encouraged to align to the local authority's local Preventing Violent Extremism delivery plan, which they must feed into. This process will limit the possibilities of duplication in projects and funding.

Funding has been given to the Youth Offending Teams, Young Offender Institutions and Secure Training Centres and the Youth Justice Board has an established audit and accounting process already in place with these establishments. In addition, progress is overseen by the Youth Justice Board's Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board and governance structures within the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism also provide oversight and challenge. The University of Huddersfield has been contracted to provide independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the programmes.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Prevent strategy has cost in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [272556]

Mr. Coaker: The Prevent Strategy was launched in October 2007. Total Home Office spending in 2007-08 was under £2 million. The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism published in March 2009 sets out the cost of key deliverables in 2008-09 and this includes more than £140 million across Government on the Prevent Strategy.

Community Security Trust

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place a copy of her speech to the annual dinner of the Community Security Trust on 2 March 2009 in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [263290]

Mr. Coaker: A copy of the Home Secretary's speech to the annual dinner of the Community Security Trust on 2 March is available on the Home Office website at

http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/Speeches/speech-community-security-trust

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were arrested during the demonstration in Parliament Square on 20 April 2009; how many have been charged with offences committed during that demonstration; and if she will make a statement; [270872]

(2) how many police officers of each rank took part in policing the demonstration held in Parliament Square on 20 April 2009; and if she will make a statement. [270798]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold this information. These are operational matters for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that Parliament Square is kept free of demonstrators on parliamentary sitting days; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement; [270960]

(2) if she will commission a report from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on the policing of the demonstration held in Parliament Square on 20 April 2009; what steps the police *(a)* have taken and *(b)* are planning to take to clear Parliament Square of demonstrators; and if she will make a statement. [270873]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to protecting and facilitating the right to peaceful protest. Police tactics and decisions on policing protests are matters for the independent judgment of chief officers of police. We have made it clear that there should be no unnecessary restrictions on the right to protest in the vicinity of Parliament. Following our consultation exercise last year on managing protest around Parliament, we announced our intention to repeal the relevant provisions in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. We intend to do that as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many arrests the police have made of persons demonstrating in Parliament Square and adjacent areas since 3 April 2009 under section 132 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 for the offence of demonstrating without authorisation in a designated area; [271680]

(2) how many items have been confiscated by the police from Tamil demonstrators in Parliament Square and in lieu of arrest under the provisions of section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 since the commencement of the protest; [271682]

(3) how many arrests the police have made in connection with the Tamil protest in Parliament Square and adjacent areas since its commencement; for what

offence or offences each individual has been arrested; and how many of these arrests were made of the offence of display of support for an organisation proscribed under section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [271683]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold this information. These are operational matters for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the daily cost of policing the ongoing demonstration in Parliament Square has been; how many police officers of each rank are taking part in policing the demonstration; how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group have been arrested since 21 April 2009; how many have been charged with offences committed during that demonstration since 21 April 2009; and if she will make a statement. [272169]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold this information. These are operational matters for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of its suppliers her Department has paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in each of the last five months. [272249]

Mr. Woolas: The percentage of invoices paid within 10 days to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in each of the last five months is as follows:

Month	*Percentage of invoices paid to SMEs within 10 days*
November 2008	19
December 2008	27
January 2009	27
February 2009	36
March 2009	50

As many suppliers issue more than one invoice in each month, it is not possible to provide the percentage of the Department's suppliers which are paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice.

Departmental Data Protection

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private contractors have been granted access to personal data held by her Department in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [241805]

Jacqui Smith: The information required is not held centrally, therefore we are unable to provide an answer because of the disproportionate cost threshold.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, "Data Handling Procedures in Government", and the accompanying document, "Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action", on 25 June 2008. [245325]

Mr. Woolas: All contractors have been informed of the requirements.

In addition, in September 2008 each major Home Office supplier was sent a letter to a named, senior individual in the organisation reminding them of their responsibilities regarding data handling and requesting sight of the supplier's policy. A self assurance model is being developed, supplemented by a risk based audit regime on suppliers.

A supplier conference has been held which specifically included a presentation on the approach to data handling and supplier obligations.

The Home Office is using the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) model services contract which contains the revised security terms and guidance to reflect the recommendations contained in the "Data Handling Procedures in Government" report for all new contracts.

Departmental Databases

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* guidelines and *(b)* safeguards her Department has in place for the commercial licensing of its departmental databases. [271994]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold any commercial licensed databases for the use of private companies therefore there are no guidelines or safeguards in place.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of her Department's *(a)* centrally managed and *(b)* agency managed databases are commercially licensed for the use of private companies; to whom each is licensed; and how much revenue her Department has received for each licence. [271995]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold any commercial licensed databases for the use of private companies.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242129]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office HQ, United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA), Identity and Passport Service (IPS), and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) provide sponsorship for staff to undertake a range of training leading to higher education qualifications.

Data are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of her Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if she will make a statement. [269603]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office operates a large scale, multi vendor supply chain delivering a wide range of ICT categories. Service capacity utilisation and the number of printers and multi-functional devices with printer capability are managed by our suppliers as part of the service offering. The information requested by the hon. Member is not therefore available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Home Office is working towards a ratio of one printer per 20 people and work is under way to review and rationalise data centres and to convert network printers to duplex capability where practicable.

The Home Office, in line with all other Chief Information Officers (CIOs) on the CIO Council, has produced a "CIO Green ICT Roadmap" which we will be following to deliver against the 18 target improvement areas outlined in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

The CIOs and Chief Technology Officers (CTO) Council of the Cabinet Office have completed the CIO Green ICT Roadmap baselines for all of its CIOs including local government representatives and agencies.

A full report of the CIO Council Green ICT Roadmaps will be made available in May featuring the action plans of all Departments involved in the council against the 18 steps. A final "one year on" report will be issued by the Cabinet Office in July. The CIO/CTO Council Green ICT Delivery Unit will refresh its annual CIO key objectives against the latest developments in technology and advances in carbon measurement which will be circulated for comment to all CIOs and relevant Departments this summer.

The Home Office is directly represented on the CIO/CTO Council Green ICT Delivery Unit and is responsible for providing support to the development of the pan-government Greening Government ICT Strategy and leadership.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues on whether its members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [262032]

Mr. Woolas: My Department's policy, for the majority of staff who are limited to standard class travel, is that first class travel is permitted only when:

(i) the member of staff can certify that he/she could not find a seat in standard class, although staff must take advantage wherever possible of reserving a seat or travelling at a different time. This concession is not applicable for travel on suburban lines;

(ii) it is operationally essential to sit with a civil servant who is entitled to and is travelling first class; or

(iii) it is operationally essential to sit with a non civil servant who is travelling first class.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management and ministerial codes.

As part of its wider focus on increasing value for money, the Home Office has a travel contract that enables significant savings to be achieved compared with the standard price of UK rail travel.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260250]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office Headquarters (HQ) and the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) ran joint staff surveys in 2004, 2005 and 2008; all of the surveys were run by ORC International. HQ and UKBA together spent £75,459 on the 2004 Staff Survey, £65,578 on the 2005 survey, and £66,338.64 for the 2008 survey.

The Criminal Records Bureau used Ipsos MORI to run a staff survey in each of the last five years. The cost of running the 2006 survey was £24,120, and in 2007 it cost £25,180. Exact figures are unavailable for 2004, 2005 and 2008 but each survey cost approximately £25,000.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has run two surveys over the last five years: in 2005, using Ipsos MORI; and in 2007 using Jigsaw. IPS is unable to provide the cost of the survey in 2005 without incurring a disproportionate cost but the 2007 staff survey cost £65,823.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260649]

Mr. Woolas: A small proportion of staff within the Home Office will have had some voice coaching as part of their training in presentation skills. Information about this is not collated centrally.

Deportation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been deported on the grounds of national security in the last *(a)* 12 months, *(b)* five years and *(c)* 10 years; and how many such deportations were to (i) Pakistan, (ii) India, (iii) Yemen, (iv) Saudi Arabia, (v) Iran, (vi) Afghanistan, (vii) Bangladesh, (viii) Turkey and (ix) Oman. [271819]

Mr. Woolas: The number of individuals deported on the grounds of national security is *(a)* none in the last 12 months, *(b)* nine in the last five years and *(c)* nine in the last 10 years. No deportation on the grounds of national security has taken place to the countries listed in the past 10 years.

Deportation: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a race impact study has been undertaken of the practice of removal from the UK of British citizen children with a foreign parent. [248591]

Mr. Woolas: There has not been a race impact study conducted as the UK Border Agency does not remove children who are British citizens. However, where a foreign national is subject to enforced return and is a parent to a child with British citizenship, it is possible for that child to accompany the parent through the enforcement process. This is only on a voluntary basis and with the consent of all parties.

UK born children who are not British citizens can be detained and removed under Immigration Act powers.

Detainees: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children aged *(a)* under five, *(b)* five to 10 and *(c)* 10 to 15 years old have been held in immigration removal centres in the UK in each of the last five years; [272193]

(2) how many children aged *(a)* under five years old, *(b)* from five to 10 years old and *(c)* from 10 to 15 years held in immigration removal centres in the UK have been held there for (i) less than six months, (ii) between six and 12 months, (iii) 12 to 24 months and (iv) longer than 24 months. [272195]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not available. The Home Office has however published the number of adults and children recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention between January 2005 and September 2006.

Information for each year is available from the Library of the House and in Table 9.4 of each year's Asylum Statistics United Kingdom publication published each August

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf

Information outside this time period is not available.

National statistics on the total number of children detained on a quarterly snapshot basis by length of detention are available in Table 11 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq408.pdf

and from the Library of the House.

Detection Rates: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate for crimes of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* robbery, *(c)* burglary in a dwelling, *(d)* theft of a motor vehicle and *(e)* theft from a vehicle was in each basic command unit in the Staffordshire Police Authority area in each of the last 10 years. [271271]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the table. Statistics at basic command unit level are only available from 1999-2000 onwards.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Detection rates for selected offences in Staffordshire basic command units[1]

Percentage detected

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03[2]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Violence against the person									
Chase	65	52	42	71	72	71	66	63	44
North Staffordshire	54	44	32	69	71	70	71	71	47
Stoke on Trent	57	50	41	68	70	66	67	63	49
Trent Valley	54	60	38	67	65	63	65	62	48
Robbery									
Chase	31	30	18	32	31	22	17	27	17
North Staffordshire	26	32	18	25	23	25	26	19	17
Stoke on Trent	21	20	20	21	22	24	42	32	20
Trent Valley	25	24	22	24	20	35	17	15	15
Burglary in a dwelling									
Chase	15	14	17	24	23	24	16	20	21
North Staffordshire	10	9	10	13	16	12	17	19	9
Stoke on Trent	8	11	11	13	23	20	23	21	18
Trent Valley	12	12	20	20	22	22	14	15	10
Theft of motor									
Chase	14	12	13	19	19	17	16	20	19
North Staffordshire	9	8	10	20	20	20	21	21	15
Stoke on Trent	10	10	12	17	22	21	21	24	22

Detection rates for selected offences in Staffordshire basic command units[1]

Percentage detected

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03[2]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Trent Valley	10	10	13	18	13	22	15	17	13
Theft from vehicle									
Chase	6	4	5	14	7	13	6	14	11
North Staffordshire	3	3	5	17	11	4	8	7	7
Stoke on Trent	5	4	3	11	9	15	12	14	15
Trent Valley	5	4	3	8	7	10	8	10	6

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03 and detections data before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Note:

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

DNA: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each police force area had their DNA samples and personal information removed from the National DNA Database in each of the last *(a)* five years and *(b)* 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [269508]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Table 1 shows the number of subject profiles removed from the National DNA Database for all reasons (including removals under the Exceptional Case Procedure, i.e. following a request to the chief officer of the responsible force from the person concerned) between April 2004 and December 2007.

Table 2 shows the number of subject profiles removed from the National DNA Database under the Exceptional Case Procedure only, for each month between January 2008 and March 2009, and for the year one April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

As the figures before January 2008 show all removals, and figures after that date show removals under the Exceptional Case Procedure only, the figures for April to December 2007 and those for January to March 2008 cannot be added to produce a figure for the year 2007-08.

The tables cover subject profiles from English and Welsh forces only.

Table 1

Force	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007[1]
Avon and Somerset	0	1	14	5
Bedfordshire	0	2	2	2
British Transport	0	3	6	1
Cambridgeshire	0	0	2	4
Cheshire	0	0	8	2
City of London	0	0	1	3
Cleveland	2	4	0	4
Cumbria	1	0	1	2
Derbyshire	0	0	2	1
Devon and Cornwall	0	1	8	2
Dorset	1	1	2	2
Durham	0	0	2	4
Dyfed-Powys	0	1	2	4
Essex	0	2	3	10
Gloucestershire	1	1	1	2
Greater Manchester	1	3	10	6
Gwent	0	1	1	1
Hampshire	0	5	8	4
Hertfordshire	1	1	12	3
Humberside	0	2	0	5
Kent	2	4	9	2
Lancashire	0	4	4	1
Leicestershire	0	1	4	1
Lincolnshire	0	6	0	6
Merseyside	4	2	2	1
Metropolitan	10	45	66	47
Norfolk	0	1	1	5
North Wales	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	1	4	4
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	0
Northumbria	2	4	9	13
Nottinghamshire	1	5	12	5
South Wales	0	5	1	1
South Yorkshire	0	5	4	12
Staffordshire	0	2	4	2
Suffolk	0	0	2	3
Surrey	0	0	8	11
Sussex	5	0	7	5
Thames Valley	1	1	5	5
Warwickshire	0	0	0	1
West Mercia	0	0	2	4
West Midlands	2	4	29	12
West Yorkshire	8	5	12	27
Wiltshire	0	13	3	6
Total	42	136	276	241

[1] April to December

Table 2

	2008												2009			
Force	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr 08 to Mar 09
Avon and Somerset	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	1	1	0	0	1	0	12
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2

	2008												2009			
Force	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr 08 to Mar 09*
British Transport	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Cambridgeshire	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Cheshire	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	10
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Dorset	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Essex	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	11
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	8
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Hertfordshire	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	4	1	1	1	0	14
Lancashire	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan	0	5	2	2	2	2	2	9	3	0	2	9	2	10	5	48
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	7
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Northumbria	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
South Yorkshire	0	5	0	2	0	0	2	4	1	22	9	4	0	0	0	44
Staffordshire	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Suffolk	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Surrey	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	6
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	5
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	5
Warwickshire	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
West Mercia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
West Midlands	0	2	0	4	1	2	5	1	5	1	2	1	4	0	0	28
West Yorkshire	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	11
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	6	31	6	16	16	20	14	31	29	41	33	23	17	20	15	281

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her latest estimate is of the number and proportion of people in each police force area who had their DNA stored on the DNA database and who had not been charged or convicted of a crime, who had subsequently had their DNA and personal information removed from the DNA database; and if she will make a statement; [269534]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the number and proportion of people in each police force area with DNA stored on the National DNA Database as the result of a police investigation into a criminal offence who had not been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of the crime under investigation; and if she will make a statement. [269509]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) is designed to match DNA taken from crime scenes with that taken from individuals. It does not hold information on whether those with records on

it have been charged or convicted, as this is not necessary for its purpose. Some data on whether those on the NDNAD have convictions are available from the Police National Computer (PNC), but not as part of its routine functions and not within the cost limit for parliamentary questions. However, the National Policing Improvement Agency does periodically obtain information on the number of people on the NDNAD who do not currently have a conviction recorded on PNC.

When data were last obtained from PNC they showed that at 31 March 2008 857,366 people on the NDNAD who had been sampled by England and Wales police forces did not have a current criminal record on PNC. However, this figure includes those who have been convicted and their records deleted, and those where proceedings are still ongoing, as well as those who have never been convicted. It would be possible to break this figure down by police force area only at disproportionate cost.

More up to date information showing the number of people on the NDNAD in England and Wales with no current criminal record on PNC will be available shortly.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for student visas from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Algeria were interviewed by UK-based immigration staff in each of the last 10 years, excluding appointments for biometric checks; and how many of those granted a visa were subsequently granted an extension of leave to remain in each of the last 10 years. [270456]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to applicants from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Algeria in each of the last 10 years. [270457]

Mr. Woolas: The number of student visas issued to nationals of Pakistan and Algeria in each of the last five calendar years is shown in the table. Data held for previous years are not considered to be reliable.

	Nationality	
Student visas issued	Pakistan	Algeria
2004	13,683	337
2005	9,765	281
2006	13,372	417
2007	12,300	532
2008	9,663	338
Total	58,783	1,905

Note:
The data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether people who are outside the UK may apply to be subject to the transitional arrangements under the Tier 1 for post-study workers. [272061]

Mr. Woolas: People outside the UK are not able to apply for leave to enter under the transitional arrangements for Tier 1 (post-study work).

Firearms: Crime

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes involving a firearm were recorded in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. [271257]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available information relates to violence against the person crimes recorded by Hertfordshire police, in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used from 1998-99 up to and including 2007-08. The data cannot be broken down to a more local level.

Violence against the person crimes involving firearms[1] (excluding air weapons): Hertfordshire police force area, 1998-99 to 2007-08

	Recorded crime (number of offences)
1998-99	12
1999-2000	5
2000-01	17
2001-02[2]	9
2002-03[3]	48
2003-04	66
2004-05	86
2005-06	69
2006-07	43
2007-08	69

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument, or used as a threat.
[2] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002, which may have resulted in inflated figures for some crime categories. Figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.

Forced Marriage

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of forced marriages which took place in *(a)* Luton, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* East of England region in the last 12 months. [271426]

Mr. Coaker: The Government's Forced Marriage Unit (a joint Home Office and FCO Unit, established in 2005) deals with a significant number of forced marriage cases every year. In 2008, the unit began keeping more detailed statistics on all reportings of forced marriage that were referred to the FMU. These statistics are not broken down by local area, but are broken down by regions.

During the whole of 2008 the unit received reports of over 1,600 possible forced marriage cases. Of those who gave a location, 5 per cent. were in the eastern region.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department is providing for specialist support for organisations dealing with forced marriage in 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [271427]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Following a successful pilot in 2008 the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has allocated £84,000 to its Domestic Programme fund for 2009-10. Specialist organisations will shortly be invited to apply for funds for project activities which support delivery of the FMU's 2009 and 2010 action plan. The Unit also separately funds support and awareness raising activity overseas, including in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

The Home Office has also allocated a total of £3.5 million to the nine Government offices for the regions and the Welsh Assembly for 2009-10 to support initiatives to tackle domestic violence. A number of regions have chosen to allocate specific funding to local initiatives tackling forced marriage in their areas.

Forced Marriage: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of forced marriages which took place in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last 12 months. [272158]

Mr. Coaker: The Government's forced marriage unit (a joint Home Office and FCO unit, established in 2005) deals with a significant number of forced marriage cases every year. In 2008, the Unit began keeping more detailed statistics on all reporting's of forced marriage that were referred to the FMU. These statistics are not broken down by local area, but are broken down by regions.

During the whole of 2008 the unit received reports of over 1,600 possible forced marriage cases. Of those who gave a location, 5 per cent. were in the Eastern region.

The unit intervened to provide direct support in 420 cases. Of these cases 213 were assistance cases where interventions were made overseas, and 207 were reluctant sponsor cases where immigration support was given.

G20: Greater London

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on the policing of the G20 demonstrations in the City of London on 1 April 2009; and what assessment she has made of effectiveness of the use of the kettling procedure to control demonstrators. [270848]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary has regular discussions with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police which have included the policing of the G20 protests.

Tactics used to police protests are operational matters for the chief officer of the force concerned. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police has invited Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to review the police tactics involved in policing G20, including containment, to assess their effectiveness.

Heathrow Airport: Detainees

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish her response to the report of the Independent Monitoring Commission on immigration detention conditions at Heathrow Airport; and if she will make a statement. [272062]

Mr. Woolas: Both the chief executive of the UK Border Agency and I have already responded to the chair of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) for Heathrow. The Agency is appreciative of the work of the Board at the airport, and many of the suggested improvements identified in the report had already been identified and are therefore work in progress. Detention Services have, however, made further improvements a priority for the coming year.

Hillsborough Stadium: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what papers held by her Department on the Hillsborough disaster she plans to publish in addition to those which have been placed in the Library. [271669]

Mr. Coaker: Government Departments holding papers on the Hillsborough tragedy are currently exploring the most appropriate means for reviewing undisclosed papers and, wherever possible, arranging for their disclosure. A statement will be issued once an appropriate way forward has been determined.

Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 for trafficking for *(a)* sexual exploitation and *(b)* labour exploitation since the inception of the Act. [271357]

Mr. Alan Campbell: 425 people have so far been arrested for trafficking for sexual exploitation under the relevant sections of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

161 people have been arrested for trafficking for the purposes of forced labour since the inception of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of victims of human trafficking who are repeat victims. [271449]

Mr. Coaker: The nature of human trafficking makes it difficult to provide a precise estimate of the number of victims in the United Kingdom, including those who are repeat victims. Our current estimate of the number of victims is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women in the UK who were victims of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre continues to work on providing a more up to date estimate of the number of victims. We will be in a position to provide a more up to date estimate of the overall number including repeat victims by the end of the year.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will publish her Department's report on the Pentameter 2 operation against human trafficking; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation in Bedfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [271454]

Mr. Coaker: Gloucestershire constabulary will be publishing a report on the outcomes of Pentameter 2 in the near future.

Identity Cards: Airports

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether airside workers will be able to request removal of their data from the temporary National Identity Register *(a)* on leaving their job during the course of the pilot, *(b)* at the end of the pilot and *(c)* at any other time. [258105]

Mr. Woolas: It is planed to start issuing identity cards from the second half of this year to airside workers at Manchester and London City airports. Identity cards issued to British citizens may be used for travel in Europe instead of a passport and will be valid for 10 years. Accordingly, the core identity information relating to all those issued with identity cards will be held securely on the National Identity Register and, in a similar way to information currently held for passport issue, would not be removed simply at the request of the card holder.

Information will continue to be retained on the National Identity Register, in accordance with section 3(1) of the Identity Cards Act 2006 only for so long as it is consistent with the statutory purposes for it to be recorded in the Register.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many clandestines were detected in vehicles attempting to enter the UK from France in 2008. [272463]

Mr. Woolas: From 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 a total of 28,007 attempts by clandestines to enter the UK illegally were prevented. This figure includes multiple attempts made by individuals. The clandestines were detected by the UK Border Agency, alongside its partners at the Juxtaposed controls in Calais, Coquelles and Dunkerque.

Note:

These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information held within locally accessed computer systems and do not represent National Statistics. They have not been the subject of National Statistics protocols and verification and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects local immigration teams to be operational; [271358]

(2) what estimate she has made of the likely cost of local immigration teams in 2009; [271359]

(3) what role the police will play in local immigration teams; [271360]

(4) what recent discussions she has had with representatives of *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* police forces on the local immigration team scheme. [271361]

Mr. Woolas: Local immigration teams are being delivered as part of a rolling programme from 2009 to the end of 2011. Nine are already operational. We expect national coverage by operational local immigration teams to be in place by December 2011.

Local immigration teams will be delivered from within the UK Border Agency's overall operational budget for the next three years.

These teams' work will focus on the prevention and disruption of illegal activity and the arrest and removal of offenders. To disrupt illegal immigrants, the local teams will be backed by Immigration Crime Partnerships with the police. The police will work with immigration officers as equal partners in integrated teams to tackle organised immigration-related criminality as well as bringing a solution to those who are in the UK illegally and committing crime.

UK Border Agency regional directors are leading the discussions with stakeholders in their regions.

Immigration Controls

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications under the Highly-Skilled Migrants programme have been received in each year since the programme began. [272235]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of highly skilled migrant applications received in each year since the programme began.

Number of highly skilled migrant applications received[1] in each year 2002-08

	Number
2002	2,495
2003	6,575
2004	23,845
2005	38,620
2006	51,590
2007	56,975

[1] Figures include review applications.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many failed applicants under the Highly-Skilled Migrants programme have subsequently been deported; [272238]

(2) what the average cost of completing deportation proceedings against failed applicants under the Highly-Skilled Migrants programme was in the latest period for which figures are available. [272239]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

These statistics are categorised by asylum or non-asylum removals and it is therefore not possible to disaggregate the numbers of those who have been removed after a failed application under the Highly Skilled Migrants

Programme from the overall figures for removals without the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Removals are delivered from within the UK Border Agency's overall operational budget. It is not possible to provide a figure for the average cost of removing a failed applicant under the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case (such as detention costs, travel costs, and the cost of escorting the individual in question). We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

The National Audit Office (NAO) gives a breakdown of the cost of typical asylum cases in 2007-08 in part four of its report 'The Home Office Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency' which was published on 23 January 2009. Although this refers specifically to asylum applicants, it provides an indication of the average costs of removing a person from the UK under a range of different circumstances. The report is available for viewing at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx

However, the UK Border Agency aims to ensure removals are effected at the lowest available rate subject to operational needs.

Immigration: Fees and Charges

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate revenue from charges for applications for *(a)* visas to the UK, *(b)* UK citizenship and *(c)* work permits in each of the next six financial years. [272256]

Mr. Woolas: In 2009-10, we estimate that we will raise £338 million from applications for visas, £81 million from British citizenship applications and £16 million from tier 2 leave to remain applications.

We will continue to set fees in a way which ensures those who benefit from the system make an appropriate contribution towards the end to end costs of the immigration system.

Immigration: Romania

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with representatives of the government of Romania on the number of people from that country who were refused entry to the UK on the grounds that their presence would threaten public policy, public security or public health since 2007. [268726]

Mr. Woolas: There are ongoing discussions with the Romanian Government, including at the Justice and Home Affairs Council in April, on various issues. HM Government have no current plans to meet with the Government of Romania on the number of Romanian citizens refused entry to the UK due to their presence being a threat to public policy, public security or public health. Any individual refused entry to the UK is dealt with on a case by case basis.

Immigration: Security Guards

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people applying for work as guards with the Security Industry Authority were asked to prove their immigration status in the latest year for which figures are available; how many of these did so; and how many of those found to be without the right to work *(a)* appealed, *(b)* appealed successfully and *(c)* had an appeal challenged by the UK Border Agency. [271831]

Mr. Coaker: All applications for licences to the Security Industry Authority (SIA) from non-European Economic Area nationals are automatically checked for the right to work by the UK Border Agency at the request of the SIA.

From 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, 28,892 checks were conducted. Of these, 25,165 were confirmed as having the right to work.

There were 3,727 who did not have the right to work, or where the UKBA had no trace of the applicant.

Out of the 3,727, a total of 1,196 contacted the SIA to claim that they had the right to work. Of these 1,041 were successful in having their right to work confirmed and 155 were unsuccessful. During the same period there were 27 appeals to the courts of which 20 were upheld, three were dismissed and four are awaiting a court ruling.

Iona School: Demonstrations

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the recent police operation at the Iona School, Sneinton; and whether there is to be a charge to the public purse for the school's repair and refurbishment required as a consequence of the demonstration; [272095]

(2) whether charges have been brought in relation to the recent demonstration at the Iona School, Sneinton; and what reports she has received on whether demonstrators forced their way into the main school rather than adjacent units. [272468]

Mr. Coaker: I cannot comment on an ongoing investigation. The costs relating to a police operation is a matter for the chief officer of the force concerned.

The police have a duty to facilitate peaceful protest, but balanced against this is their duty to prevent the commission of offences.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what occasions the decision to include the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on the list of proscribed organisations has been reviewed in the last five years; and what criteria were applied to the review in each case. [271511]

Mr. Coaker: The list of proscribed organisations in schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000 is kept under regular review.

It is Home Office policy to review the proscription of each organisation on the list at least once a year. The proscription of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE) was specifically reviewed twice during the period 2004 to 2005 and subsequently reviewed at least once in each of the years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The proscription of the LTTE was additionally reviewed between October 2007 and January 2008 following receipt of an application for deproscription of the organisation. This application was refused.

At each annual review, officials consider whether the organisation in question is "concerned in terrorism" as defined in Terrorism Act 2000 and, if so, whether as a matter of discretion the organisation should remain proscribed.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Macclesfield of 23 March 2009, Ref M7032/9, UKBA Ref M1368250, on indefinite leave to remain, sent on behalf of his constituent Mrs Chatellon Matibag. [271435]

Mr. Woolas: The Deputy Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency replied to the letter on 24 April.

Metropolitan Police: Complaints

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many complaints have been made against police officers serving in the Metropolitan Police for concealing shoulder numbers in each of the last five years; [273050]

(2) how many police officers serving in the Metropolitan Police have been disciplined for concealing shoulder numbers in each of the last five years. [273051]

Mr. Coaker: These data are not held by the Home Office. The Metropolitan Police Service may be able to provide such information.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the collation and annual publication of police complaints and discipline statistics. However, these statistics are not broken down to the level of detail requested.

National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated to the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit in each year since its inception. [266956]

Mr. Coaker: Funding to the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit is managed on the behalf of the Home Office by the Association of Chief Police Officers Terrorism and Allied Matters (ACPO TAM). We do not disclose details of grants provided to individual units on security grounds.

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on private contractors for escorted deportations in 2008. [263195]

Mr. Woolas: The value of contracts between the UK Border Agency and its escorting suppliers is commercially sensitive and cannot therefore be disclosed.

Police: Conduct

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving police officers in each police force area have *(a)* been subject to criminal proceedings, *(b)* been suspended from duty and *(c)* received written warnings for (i) misuse of the Police National Computer and (ii) other data protection offences in each of the last five years. [270580]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not receive or collect such information. These are issues for individual forces.

Police: Costs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the cost of policing *(a)* late alcohol licences and *(b)* football matches in each of the next six financial years. [272258]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally. Deployment of local policing resources is a matter for the chief constable and police authority to determine in light of local circumstances and operational priorities.

Police: Finance

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the budget of each police force in Wales was derived from central Government funding in each year since 1997. [272773]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Proportion of budget derived from general grant 1997 to 2009

	1997-98			*1998-99*			*1999-2000*		
Police authority	*General grant[1] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1,2] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*
Dyfed-Powys	42.07	49.95	84.2	42.39	51.78	81.9	43.07	55.72	77.3
Gwent	56.50	64.56	87.5	58.23	66.93	87.0	60.67	71.41	84.9
North Wales	60.80	71.30	85.3	61.46	73.91	83.1	63.84	79.55	80.2

Proportion of budget derived from general grant 1997 to 2009

	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		
Police authority	*General grant[1] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1, 2] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*
South Wales	137.31	155.44	88.3	141.02	161.13	87.5	143.80	169.97	84.6
Wales	296.67	341.25	86.9	303.09	353.76	85.7	311.38	376.65	82.7

	2000-01			2001-02			2001-02 Adjusted report		
Police authority	*General grant[1] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*
Dyfed-Powys	44.08	59.03	74.7	46.83	62.88	74.5	46.33	62.88	73.7
Gwent	62.47	76.14	82.1	65.23	80.68	80.9	64.38	80.68	79.8
North Wales	65.23	84.02	77.6	69.41	89.45	77.6	68.59	89.45	76.7
South Wales	146.57	179.08	81.8	154.14	188.94	81.6	152.03	188.94	80.5
Wales	318.34	398.26	79.9	335.61	421.95	79.5	331.33	421.95	78.5

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
Police authority	*General grant[1] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1, 4] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1, 5] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*
Dyfed-Powys	47.84	65.33	73.2	49.30	71.23	69.2	50.89	77.01	66.1
Gwent	66.74	84.39	79.1	69.55	91.97	75.6	71.82	98.19	73.1
North Wales	70.19	93.46	75.1	73.33	104.64	70.1	77.28	115.24	67.1
South Wales	158.27	195.01	81.2	163.01	201.01	81.1	168.23	216.62	77.7
Wales	343.03	438.18	78.3	355.20	468.86	75.8	368.21	507.06	72.6

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
Police authority	*General grant[1, 5, 6] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1, 5, 6] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1, 5] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*
Dyfed-Powys	48.53	80.28	60.5	50.07	79.89	62.7	51.83	83.64	62.0
Gwent	73.05	102.31	71.4	75.34	106.05	71.0	78.68	110.67	71.1
North Wales	70.96	120.68	58.8	73.18	118.68	61.7	76.31	124.80	61.1
South Wales	161.00	227.44	70.8	166.27	222.65	74.7	172.16	232.10	74.2
Wales	353.54	530.70	66.6	364.86	527.27	69.2	378.99	551.21	68.8

	2008-09			2009-10		
Police authority	*General grant[1, 5]*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*	*General grant[1, 5] (£ million)*	*Budget requirement (£ million)*	*Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)*
Dyfed-Powys	53.10	86.96	61.1	55.06	90.18	61.1
Gwent	80.60	114.30	70.5	83.56	117.85	70.9
North Wales	78.18	129.42	60.4	81.04	134.13	60.4

	2008-09			2009-10		
Police authority	General grant[1, 2]	Budget requirement (£ million)	Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)	General grant[1, 2] (£ million)	Budget requirement (£ million)	Proportion of budget met by general grant (%)
South Wales	176.70	240.30	73.5	178.99	248.47	72.0
Wales	388.58	570.98	68.1	398.65	590.63	67.5

[1] General grant comprises: Home Office police grant and Welsh Assembly Government revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates.
[2] Adjusted for NCS and NCIS.
[3] Home Office payment for 'floor' support included in general grant.
[4] General grant adjusted due to Amending Report.
[5] 2004-05 figures not directly comparable following the removal of PFI funding out of RSG.
[6] Transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.

Police: Leyton

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been provided to the Metropolitan Police in Leyton and Wanstead constituency in each of the last five years; and what initiatives have been introduced by the police in the constituency in each of those years. [273334]

Mr. Coaker: The Government allocate funding to police authorities as a whole. The allocation of resources and the management of the police estate in Leyton and Wanstead constituency is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Metropolitan Police Authority, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

The information requested on what initiatives have been introduced by the police in the constituency is not held centrally.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* special constables there were in each year since 1997-98 and *(b)* community support officers there were in each year since the establishment of the post (i) in England and Wales and (ii) in each police force. [262900]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales". The bulletins are available in the Library of the House, and can be downloaded from the publications link within the Research Development and Statistics directorate website located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html

Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which date each organisation proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000 was so proscribed; and if she will make a statement. [272165]

Mr. Coaker: A total of 59 groups are proscribed under schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000. This includes 45 international terrorist organisations and 14 groups connected to the affairs of Northern Ireland.

On the Terrorist Act receiving Royal Assent on 20 July 2000, 14 organisations connected to the affairs of Northern Ireland were listed under schedule 2; these organisations were until that point proscribed under previous legislation either with effect in Northern Ireland only, or, in respect of the Irish Republican Army and the Irish National Liberation Army, with effect in the whole of the UK. The organisations are:

The Irish Republican Army
Cumann nam Ban
Fianna nah Eireann
The Red Hand Commando
Saor Eire
The Ulster Freedom Fighters
The Ulster Volunteer Force
The Irish National Liberation Army
The Irish People's Liberation Organisation
The Ulster Defence Association
The Loyalist Volunteer Force
The Continuity Army Council
The Orange Volunteers
The Red Hand Defenders

Proscription orders since 2000:

Coming into force 29 March 2001

al-Qaeda
Egyptian Islamic Jihad
Al-Gama'at al-Islamiya
Armed Islamic Group (Groupe Islamique Armée) (GIA)
Salafist Group for Call and Combat (Groupe Salafiste pour la Prédication et le Combat)
Babbar Khalsa
International Sikh Youth Federation
Harakat Mujahideen
Jaish e Mohammed
Lashkar e Tayyaba
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
Hizballah External Security Organisation Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades
Palestinian Islamic Jihad—Shaqaqi
Abu Nidal Organisation
Islamic Army of Aden
Mujaheddin e Khalq
Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan) (PKK) (alternative names Kongra-Gele Kurdistan and KADEK added in 2006)
Revolutionary Peoples' Liberation Party—Front (Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi-Cephesi)
Basque Homeland and Liberty (Euskadi ta Askatasuna) (ETA)
17 November Revolutionary Organisation (N17)

Coming into force on 1 November 2002:

Abu Sayyaf Group
Asbat Al-Ansar

Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan
Jemaah Islamiyah

Coming into force on 14 October 2005:

Al Ittihad Al Islamia
Ansar Al Islam
Ansar Al Sunna
Groupe Islamique Combattant Marocain
Harakat-ul-Jihad-ul-Islami
Harakat-ul-Jihad-ul-Islami (Bangladesh)
Harakat-ul-Mujahideen/Alami
Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin
Islamic Jihad Union
Jamaat ul-Furquan
Jundallah
Khuddam ul-Islam
Lashkar-e Jhangvi
Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
Sipah-e Sahaba Pakistan

Coming into force on 26 July 2006:

Al Ghurabaa
The Saved Sect
Baluchistan Liberation Army
Teyrebaz Azadiye Kurdistan

Coming into force on 25 July 2007:

Jammat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh
Tehrik Nefaz-e Shari'at Muhammadi

Mujaheddin e Khalq was removed from the proscribed list on 24 June 2008.

The following entry

"The military wing of Hizballah, including the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it (including the Hizballah External Security Organisation)"

was substituted for the entry

"Hizballah External Security Organisation"

with effect from 18 July 2008.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which date each organisation that has been removed from the proscription list under the Terrorism Act 2000 was removed; what the reasons for the removal were in each case; and if she will make a statement. [272166]

Mr. Coaker: Mujaheddin e Khalq, also known as the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI), is the only organisation to have been removed from the list of proscribed organisations. The Order proscribing the organisation came into force on 24 June 2008 following rulings from the Court of Appeal and the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (POAC) that the organisation was no longer concerned in terrorism as set out in the Terrorism Act 2000.

Racial Discrimination: Internet

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Minister in her Department has policy responsibility for tackling racism on the internet; what funds her Department has allocated to tackling racism on the internet in 2009-10; what steps are being taken to tackle *(a)* racism and *(b)* anti-Semitic hate on the internet. [271850]

Mr. Coaker: I am responsible for tackling hate crime on the internet. This includes racism on the internet. In February 2009 a ministerial seminar met to discuss how to more effectively tackle hate crime on the internet, including anti-Semitic hate crime. Work following this meeting is ongoing with officials currently researching options and costings on how best to tackle internet hate crime. Consideration will be given to the costed proposals in due course.

Reparation by Offenders: Publicity

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on its advertising campaign Justice Seen, Justice Done to date. [272882]

Mr. Coaker: The Justice Seen Justice Done Campaign comprised two elements—communications about the new Policing Pledge and communications about Community Payback.

The total media spend on the Policing Pledge campaign was £3,427,521. The total media spend on the Community Payback campaign was £621,266.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* items of correspondence (i) her Department and (ii) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has received in respect of historical investigations of allegations of sex abuse in each year since 2001. [270817]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Stop and Search: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were found to be carrying illegal *(a)* weapons and *(b)* drugs during stop and search procedures by the police in (i) West Chelmsford constituency and (ii) Essex in each of the last 10 years. [271985]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of arrests arising from stop and search procedures for illegal weapons and drugs in Essex police force area from 1998-99 to 2007-08 (latest available) is provided in the table.

The information reported to the Home Office on searches is broken down at police force area level only and cannot separately identify arrests resulting from searches conducted in the West Chelmsford constituency area.

Number of persons arrested for the possession of offensive weapons and drugs after stop and search procedures by police in Essex police force area, 1998-99 – 2007-08

	Stops and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984		*Searches in anticipation of violence under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994*
	Arrests for offensive weapons	*Arrests for drugs*	*Number of arrests for possession of offensive weapons or dangerous instruments*
1998-99	55	491	—
1999-2000	76	354	—
2000-01	73	408	—
2001-02	90	308	—
2002-03	97	339	—
2003-04	91	300	1
2004-05	127	309	3
2005-06	118	286	1
2006-07	109	270	—
2007-08	133	432	2

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Telecommunications: Databases

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the annual cost to businesses of implementation of her proposals to retain email and web information on customers. [272582]

Mr. Coaker: Current legislation, the Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2009 (Statutory Instrument 2009/859), provides that the Secretary of State may, subject to prior agreement, reimburse any expenses incurred by a public communications provider in complying with the regulations for retention of communications data. On 27 April the Home Secretary published a consultation paper, "Protecting the Public in a Changing Communications Environment" seeking views on options for maintaining the capability of law enforcement and security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications data to protect the public.

The paper outlines that high level initial estimates of the cost of the options are in the range of up to £2 billion over a 10 year period. The Government are actively seeking the views of business on the proposed options to help meet its Better Regulation commitments to minimise their impact on business.

Territorial Support Group: Complaints

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many complaints were received against officers of the Territorial Support Group in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how many such complaints have been received in 2009 to date; [271848]

(2) how many allegations of assault were made against officers of the Territorial Support Group in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 to date; and of these, how many were (i) upheld, (ii) allegations of assaults against ethnic minorities and (iii) allegations of assaults against women. [272359]

Mr. Coaker: These data are not held by the Home Office. The Metropolitan Police Service may be able to provide such information.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for collecting the general complaint statistics that are published annually. However, these statistics are not broken down to the specific policing duty area where the officer works.

Terrorism: Anthrax

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment has been made of the level of risk of anthrax infection to workers in Government Department postal sections arising from the terrorist action; and if she will make a statement; [271429]

(2) what guidance her Department has given to companies on the vaccination of key workers against anthrax infection arising from terrorist action; [271430]

(3) whether personnel in the 18 chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear preparedness centres planned in the Government's Contest counter-terrorism strategy will be vaccinated against anthrax infection; [271431]

(4) what assessment she has made of the likely effects on public health of the release of anthrax spores on a platform at a deep-level London Underground station serving multiple Underground lines; and if she will make a statement; [271432]

(5) which manufacturers of vaccines against anthrax are represented on *(a)* the security and resilience suppliers community (RISC) and *(b)* the RISC chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear industry advisory group; [271433]

(6) what steps her Department took following the spreading of anthrax contamination by postal means in the US in 2001; and if she will make a statement. [271434]

Mr. Coaker: From 2001, and following the anthrax incidents in the United States of America, the United Kingdom's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Resilience programme has provided the framework for comprehensive planning and preparation for dealing with the possible consequences of a CBRN attack. In addition, the Government's wider Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) deals, among other things, with all aspects of protection to the public, including security advice to the private sector. While for security reasons it would be inappropriate to detail all aspects of such planning, the Government's approach is to prevent terrorists from obtaining or using hazardous materials; to put in place safeguards to protect the public, public places or critical national infrastructure from such attacks; and to ensure that measures are in place to reduce the impact of any such attack should it occur. The Health and Safety Executive has, for example, produced guidance on "Biological/Chemical Threats by Post" and general advice to businesses is provided by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure.

With regard to anthrax vaccine, the Health Protection Agency is the sole manufacturer of the UK's licensed anthrax vaccine. The vaccine is manufactured for and on behalf of the UK Government. As a public body,

the HPA is not a member of RISC. Routine vaccination against anthrax is generally used only to protect individuals who may be exposed to anthrax in the workplace (for example working with animal hides).

Terrorism: Arrests

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions have been made under the (i) Terrorism Act 2000 and (ii) Terrorism Act 2006 in each year since their implementation. [272196]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not currently available.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data on arrests and convictions under terrorist legislation and other related legislation. As soon as this is complete a statistical bulletin to cover information on arrests and convictions will be published.

Terrorism: Convictions

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of indictments on charges of terrorism has resulted in convictions in the last two years. [273315]

Mr. Coaker: The information required will be contained in the Statistical Bulletin on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes which is due to be published shortly. The data contained in the Statistical Bulletin are recorded up until 31 March 2008.

Statistics for 2008-09 are expected to be published in late 2009.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional training is proposed for employees of *(a)* civil nuclear facilities, including research laboratories, and *(b)* military bases in support of the resilience strategy set out in the report, "The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism". [267593]

Mr. Coaker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Ministry of Defence are among the wide range of stakeholders involved in the delivery of the strategy for countering international terrorism, including work to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and to recover from its aftermath. Civil nuclear installations in the UK operate within a strict regulatory regime. Robust emergency plans are in place to ensure an effective response in the event of an emergency at a civil nuclear site. These plans are subject to regular exercise and review. We do not comment on the arrangements for security of military facilities for obvious reasons.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many thefts from vehicles were recorded in Staffordshire Police Authority area in each of the last five years; [271269]

(2) how many incidents of vehicle crime were recorded in Staffordshire in each year since 2005. [271272]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the table.

Numbers of offences against vehicles recorded in the Staffordshire police force area

Offence	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	3,995	3,245	3,226	3,075	2,596
Aggravated vehicle taking	214	225	185	160	150
Theft from vehicle	9,576	7,800	7,646	7,682	6,826
Interfering with a motor vehicle	2,145	1,791	1,755	1,576	1,237
Total offences against vehicles	15,930	13,061	12,812	12,493	10,809

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce the incidence of vehicle crime in rural areas since 2005. [271273]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to ensuring that the response to motor vehicle and other motor vehicle enabled crime is as effective as possible.

Crime and disorder reduction partnerships and Community safety partnerships are required to prioritise the crime types and problems of most concern locally based on a robust strategic assessment. This involves an appropriately differentiated approach between areas.

Total recorded offences against vehicles fell by 20 per cent. between 2004-05 and 2007-08.

We also know from British crime survey statistics published in July 2008 that theft of vehicles fell by over 21 per cent. from 2005-06 to 2007-08, and that theft from vehicles fell by over 14 per cent. over the same period.

66 per cent. of vehicle crime involves theft from vehicles, and this is being tackled through local crime prevention initiatives such as reminding drivers about leaving items visible in vehicles.

Success in the reduction of theft of vehicles has been achieved, in part, through successful problem solving—particularly in reducing repeat victimisation and improved vehicle security which has been achieved by partnership working between the Government, motor manufacturers and insurers.

British crime survey statistics consistently show that crime is lower in rural areas. The following table shows the percentage of households in each area type that were victims of vehicle related thefts:

Vehicle crime

	Percentage	
	Urban	*Rural*
2005-06	8.3	4.3
2006-07	8.3	4.6
2007-08	7.2	3.7

Vehicle Number Plates

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful prosecutions have been brought for offences related to *(a)* speeding,

(b) jumping red lights and *(c)* stolen vehicles as a result of the use of automatic number plate recognition technology in each police force area in each of the last five years. [271767]

Mr. Coaker: Automatic Number Plate Recognition is now in regular use in all aspects of operational policing. Records relating to the number of successful prosecutions as a result of the use of this technology are not held centrally.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* individuals, *(b)* private businesses and *(c)* public authorities are able to access data collated by automatic number plate recognition systems operated by police forces. [271768]

Mr. Coaker: The handling of ANPR data by police forces is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, and any requests for access would be considered within that context.

(a) Individuals have no specific right to access data collated by ANPR systems operated by police forces.

(b) Private businesses have no specific right to access data collated by ANPR systems operated by police forces.

(c) Public authorities have no specific right to access data collated by ANPR systems operated by police forces. However, some local authority CCTV control rooms have the provision to be alerted to ANPR hits to enable efficient operation of CCTV cameras. In such circumstances, the reason for the interest in the vehicle is not shared with the control room. Local authorities have—by agreement with the police—the ability to alert police to a vehicle.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what period of time police forces are allowed to retain data acquired via automatic number plate recognition systems. [271769]

Mr. Coaker: Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) data are, in general, retained for the first 90 days after collection, for viewing by authorised persons for post-crime interrogation and investigation. This enables investigations to use the ANPR tool to identify suspects, witnesses or patterns.

Some data maybe retained for up to two years, however, these data are partitioned from general viewing. A senior officer (superintendent or above) must authorise any access to data older than 90 days. This authorisation is restricted to serious crime and counter-terrorism investigations only.

The Association of Chief Police Officers is currently revising its guidance around data retention.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation governs the operation of automatic number plate recognition systems by police forces. [271770]

Mr. Coaker: In their usage of Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems, police are bound by the provisions of legislation including the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 247959, on loss of departmental property, tabled on 12 January 2009. [262507]

Mr. Woolas: Question 247959 was answered on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 160W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption: British Overseas Territories

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to apply The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to all overseas territories. [270404]

Beverley Hughes: For the Hague convention to be extended to any overseas territory, that territory must have the necessary legislation for implementing the convention in place. The 'overseas territories' are self-governing and our position is that implementation of the convention is a matter for them. Should an overseas territory wish to implement the convention, then we could extend the convention to that territory once the necessary legislation was in place.

We would encourage all countries to implement the Hague convention to protect the best interests of children in intercountry adoptions.

Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of grandparents and other family members in England who are *(a)* family and friends carers but not foster carers and *(b)* family and friends foster carers. [270228]

Beverley Hughes: One of the key principles of the Children Act 1989 is that children should be cared for by their families where this is consistent with the child's welfare.

Where a child needs to be looked after by the state, local authorities are required to consider the potential benefits of a placement with family and friends before all other options. A family or friend who has a child placed with them by the local authority must become an approved foster carer. The number of foster carers who are related to the child placed with them is not collected centrally. However, information collected in the SSDA903 return from local authorities shows that the number of looked after children at 31 March 2008 in a foster placement with a relative or friend is 6,900.

Family and friends caring for children who are not looked after by the state are a very broad group. Some will be caring for the child as a private family arrangement with the child's parents, where state intervention will not necessarily be appropriate and the child and their carers may not be known to the local authority.

If a child being cared for by a family or friend is assessed as being in need, the local authority may provide support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 ("the Act") in order to promote their upbringing by their family. The number of families receiving support under section 17 of the Act is not collected centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care in 2008 had had more than *(a)* 60, *(b)* 70, *(c)* 80, *(d)* 90 and *(e)* 100 foster placements while in care. [270905]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1055-58W.

The response showed that there were no children looked after in 2008 that had more than 30 foster placements. This means that there were also no children looked after in 2008 that had more than *(a)* 60, *(b)* 70, *(c)* 80, *(d)* 90 and *(e)* 100 foster placements while in care.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in council care homes subsequently moved into private housing in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* the Leeds metropolitan area and *(c)* England in the last five years. [271113]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of looked after children in private housing is not collected centrally by the Department.

However information on the number of looked after children placed in homes is available from tables A3 and LAA2 in the Statistical First Release entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008', which is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table A3 (national level) can be found within the 1st set of national tables and table LAA2 (local authority level) can be found within the first set of additional tables.

Children: Databases

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which local authorities have not completed the first phase of implementation of the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement; [266639]

(2) when he expects the ContactPoint database to be fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [266640]

Beverley Hughes: We are taking a prudent and incremental approach to ContactPoint delivery. Local authorities provided a progress update on their shielding activity 13 March, which included whether they had robust arrangements in place to deal with shielding requests on an ongoing basis. Two thirds of local authorities confirmed that they had completed the required shielding actions. We are aware of a number of issues raised by local authorities and are working closely with them to address these issues.

The Secretary of State will provide an update to Parliament in the spring about progress towards being fully operational.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 233W, on children: databases, if he will place in the Library a copy of each letter and email. [271471]

Beverley Hughes: These documents form part of the normal and ongoing implementation process between my Department and the local authorities. A considerable amount of time and money, both centrally and locally would be required to ensure that they did not include material that:

was provided in confidence;

identified individuals;

was commercially or technically sensitive.

I believe to make these documents available would inhibit the free and frank exchange of views which is critical to the success of projects of this nature, and therefore they will not be published.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have raised concerns with his Department about tracing co-resident children in ContactPoint; and what concerns each such authority has raised. [271501]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 27 April 2009]*: ContactPoint's prime objective is to identify who else is working with a child, not to trace all other children in a particular location.

Three local authorities have provided feedback that the functionality to locate co-resident children, in some cases has not shown any records to the user. This is because, in these cases, the number of children that the system identifies as potentially co-resident is in excess of limits on ContactPoint that are in place to prevent trawling.

We are, as with all feedback received, during this learning phase, evaluating it; and any identified improvements will be considered for implementation.

These responses were sent in confidence and as part of the normal, ongoing discussion between the Department and the local authorities; and as part of the implementation process of the project.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the ContactPoint database in penetration tests. [272083]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 30 April 2009]*: ContactPoint has undergone security penetration testing in accordance with Government policy for the assurance and risk management of information assets. The findings of all penetration tests have been appropriately addressed.

While it is not appropriate to report externally on the detail of these tests, periodic penetration testing of ContactPoint is a key element of the framework of measures that provide the required assurance that an appropriate level of security has been established and is being maintained for the system.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish anonymised versions of the full serious case reviews into the deaths in Doncaster of *(a)* Alfie Goddard, *(b)* Child A, *(c)* Child AO6 and (d) Child BO5. [253077]

Beverley Hughes: Paragraph 8.33 of 'Working Together To Safeguard Children' 2006 states that

"in all cases, the LSCB overview report should contain an executive summary that will be made public and that includes, as a minimum, information about the review process, key issues arising from the case and the recommendations that have been made."

Executive summaries are available on the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board website in respect of Child A, Child A06 and Child B05. The executive summary for AG has not yet been published.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the effect on child protection of proposed reductions in funding for legally-aided family cases. [271506]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 30 April 2009]*: The Government are fully committed to safeguarding vulnerable children and I am clear that it is important we secure the right level of support for these children within the family justice system. Officials from the Department, the Legal Services Commission (LSC), the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) have already had discussions about how to achieve this. Further discussions are planned in the light of the consultation responses, following the MOJ/LSC consultation on Family Legal Aid Funding 2010.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the Missing from Home and Care guidance; and if he will make a statement. [272885]

Beverley Hughes: The draft version of the revised Missing from Home and Care guidance was published on the DCSF website for public consultation in January 2009 and consultation events were held in York, Manchester and London in February. The consultation came to an end in April 2009 and my officials are working closely with a group of experts, including members of the English Coalition for Runaway Children, to amend the guidance as a result of the responses received.

I anticipate that the guidance will be published in electronic form in mid to late June. When the outcomes of the review into emergency accommodation provision are known, we will consider the implications on our statutory guidance to local authorities in this area and revise this section of the guidance accordingly. The guidance will then be published in hard copy towards the end of the year.

By publishing the guidance in electronic form in June, local authorities will be able to use it to help them implement the requirements of National Indicator 71—"Missing from Home and Care".

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to page 66 of "The Protection of Children in England: a progress report", HC330, what recent estimate he has made of vacancy rates within child protection teams. [265232]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the vacancy rates within child protection teams is not recorded centrally. It is for individual chief constables to assess their own staffing priorities and decide how best to address the vacancy rates within child protection teams.

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families intends to publish a detailed action plan in response to Lord Laming's recommendations on 6 May 2009.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what indicators his Department uses to monitor the performance of local safeguarding children boards; and if he will make a statement: [258351]

(2) what safeguards exist to ensure *(a)* openness and *(b)* fairness in the operation of local safeguarding children boards; and if he will make a statement. [258354]

Beverley Hughes: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding to this question. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to a similar question on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1131W.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards' (LSCBs) compliance and effectiveness in their statutory role to develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is monitored by local authority scrutiny, through peer review based on self-evaluation, performance indicators and joint audit and through the judgments made by inspectorates. The work of LSCBs has to be planned properly and fit within a framework of action set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Ofsted assesses and inspects local authority area level services for children, including the effectiveness of the LSCB. It has done so through annual performance assessments (APAs) and joint area reviews (JARs) of children's services. From April 2009 it will do so, with other inspectorates, as part of new arrangements for comprehensive area assessment (CAA). There will also be a three yearly cycle of inspections specifically of safeguarding and services for looked after children, undertaken by Ofsted and the new Care Quality Commission.

In his recent report, 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report', Lord Laming states that

"Despite Local Safeguarding Children Boards being relatively new, they are already having a positive impact on services for protecting children. Ofsted published 21 Joint Area Reviews of children's services between April to June 2008 and in 18 of those they reported that LSCBs are already making a significant positive difference to their local services."

Lord Laming's report makes a number of recommendations designed to strengthen further the positive impact of LSCBs. The Government have accepted Lord Laming's

recommendations and set out in their immediate response, published on 12 March, how we will strengthen the role of the LSCB so that they challenge every member of the Children's Trust, through the Children's Trust Board, on their success in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe. The LSCB should also publish an annual report on the effectiveness of arrangements locally for keeping children safe, as recommended by Lord Laming.

The Government will publish a detailed response to all Lord Laming's recommendations on 6 May 2009.

Schools: Influenza

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of schools with the capacity to provide education remotely in the event of school closure necessitated by a flu pandemic; [272906]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to schools on contingency preparations for a flu pandemic; [272971]

(3) what scientific advice the Government have received on the appropriate time to issue advice to schools on closures in the event of a pandemic; [272972]

(4) what provisions he plans to make to support students with special educational needs in the event of school closures owing to a pandemic; [272973]

(5) what steps he has taken to ensure that schools have stocks of *(a)* personal protective equipment and *(b)* personal cleansing materials necessary in the event of an influenza pandemic; [272974]

(6) what steps he plans to take to keep schools informed of the levels of infection in their areas in the event of an influenza pandemic; [272975]

(7) what guidance he has issued to schools on measures to ensure that children are able to make up learning forgone because of school closures during any pandemic. [272976]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department issued guidance in 2006 on contingency measures for pandemic flu, which we supplemented with guidance on infection control (2007) and remote learning in the event of a school closing for an extended period (2008). The Department sent out reminders in the week commencing 27 April 2009 that the guidance is available. We also drew the attention of local authorities, schools and others to the raising of the World Health Organisation's level of alert to phase 5 and the increased urgency for existing plans to be reviewed, drawing on the Department's guidance. The Department issued a note to schools and local authorities on 5 May 2009, which included a comprehensive brief on issues of interest to the education sector.

The pandemic flu and infection control guidance were informed by advice from the Health Protection Agency. Local authorities have a responsibility for vulnerable children in their area and they must plan to ensure that essential services can operate for the provision of education for all children including those with special educational needs. Our guidance on infection control includes advice on the use and disposal of personal protection equipment and clothes and the use of cleansing materials. It is for schools and local agencies to liaise on making these available.

The Department has set out in its guidance to schools and children's services on planning for a human influenza pandemic, the communication channels through which it would communicate any decisions that schools should close or re-open.

The remote learning guidance referred to above aims to help the provision of ongoing education in the event of a school not being able to open. It is our belief that this will lessen the impact on pupils' learning because their school is closed due to pandemic flu.

Schools: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding from *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the National Lottery has been spent on school sport in each of the last five years. [272765]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the last five years from 2004-05 to 2008-09, a total of £1.134 billion has been spent on PE and school sport via the Exchequer. A further £679.8 million has been spent on school sports programmes via the Big Lottery Fund. These programmes include PE and Sport in Schools, Spaces for Sports and Arts and School Sports Co-ordinators. Awards have also been made to projects that have contributed to school sports through other Big Lottery Fund grant programmes including Community Sports programmes, Football Foundation, Awards for All and Reaching Communities. School sport also benefits from awards from the four home country sports lottery distributing bodies.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the criteria for access to international funding for the purposes of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and degradation. [265838]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The Bali Action Plan (2007) calls for consideration of policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in developing countries. This is in addition to the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. The UK supported the commitment that the needs of local communities and indigenous people will be addressed when action is taken to reduce emissions from deforestation and recognised the relevant provisions of other international agreements such as the convention on biological diversity (CBD) to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Any payment for mitigation is expected to be paid post carbon saved. Consequently an agreement on baselines and a reliable framework for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) is needed to ensure the integrity and

credibility of REDD efforts. This needs to take into account national, sub-national and sector and project level MRV.

However there is an understanding that finance is needed for up-front investment and capacity building costs. We expect that such funding will take into account, as with existing funds, country preparedness and ability—institutional and otherwise—to undertake REDD initiatives, taking into account Government efforts to date and Government willingness to move to a strategic approach to REDD and to integrate the role of forests into development.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will introduce the proposed pay as you save initiative in advance of 2013. [269517]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are currently consulting on options to encourage householders to install energy saving and renewable technologies by providing financial mechanisms which spread the costs of these measures over time, so that the costs are more than offset by savings on bills. The consultation, which also covers the broader heat and energy saving strategy, closes on 8 May and we encourage stakeholders to send in their views.

Housing: Standards

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the introduction of the PassivHaus standard; and if he will make a statement. [269730]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions regarding the introduction of the "PassivHaus" standard with ministerial colleagues. Issues regarding the energy efficiency of new builds fall within the remit of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Insulation: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1128-9W, on insulation: housing, how many homes have been insulated since the commencement of the heat and energy saving strategy; and if he will make a statement. [272470]

Joan Ruddock: The Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HESS) consultation, published on 12 February, seeks views on our long-term strategy to deliver energy and carbon savings through the next decade and beyond. In particular, the package of policies under consideration aims to ensure we are capable of living within our proposed carbon budgets during the period to 2022, and that we can achieve our target to cut UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent. by 2050. We aim to publish a finalised strategy by the end of the year.

In the meantime, our existing package of policies, including the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT); the Warm Front scheme; and the Decent Homes programme, is continuing to roll-out insulation measures to GB homes. We estimate that well over 1 million homes have been insulated in the last 12 months under these schemes.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timescale Ofgem requires to assess the suitability of renewable heating products for funding through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target programme; and what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum time taken between an initial application to Ofgem and the successful accreditation of a new product has been. [272932]

Joan Ruddock: Ofgem advises that if all required information is provided at the time of submission it may take around a month to assess and approve the proposal. However, if a piece of information is missing, for example details of the seasonal coefficient of performance (CoP) which may need to be monitored for six months via a trial, assessing such an activity may take significantly longer, even up to a year.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedures Ofgem uses to assess the suitability of renewable heating products for funding through programmes associated with the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target; and if he will make a statement. [272933]

Joan Ruddock: Ofgem assesses renewable heating products in a number of ways as different types of information are required to demonstrate compliance with the CERT obligation.

Manufacturers of heat pumps are required to demonstrate a seasonal coefficient of performance (CoP) of the units and the percentage of heat load they provide. If the seasonal CoP is not known then a field trial on 10 installations is required. For each installation, the energy supplier is required to confirm which fuel has been displaced as a result of the installation and the type of supplementary heating used if need be. This allows Ofgem to estimate how much carbon each installation saves using a methodology developed for this purpose.

Ofgem requires that between 3 and 4m^2 of solar water heating panelling (evacuated tube and flat plate respectively) is installed per property, which is calculated to be an appropriate size for each property type.

Installation of the domestic biomass boilers must meet the standards outlined in the guidance to the Building Regulations.

Each of these domestic renewable technologies above and installers of these technologies is required to be accredited by the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) or equivalent to ensure the quality of the technology and installation. This means that each technology promoted through CERT must comply with the standards specified by the MCS. In addition, each installer is recommended to be registered by the REAL Assurance Scheme.

Evaluation of each communal biomass boiler installation is assessed on a case by case basis. The supplier is required to provide: the existing site heat demand, type of heating system (fuel and system efficiency), information about the biomass boiler including its seasonal efficiency,

type of wood and its calorific value and moisture content, annual fuel supply and details of the back-up system. Suppliers are also required to check whether an installation may take place in a smoke control area in which case only exempted appliances may be used.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Audio Recordings: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of catalogued lists kept by *(a)* PPL and *(b)* the Performing Right Society of (i) featured and (ii) non-featured artists on sound recordings produced between 1950 and 1970. [273289]

Mr. Lammy: No such assessment has been made.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what representations he has received from *(a)* the Radio Centre and *(b)* representatives of business organisations on Performing Right Society (PRS) public performance licences for radios in the workplace; what recent representations he has received from businesses which have ceased to used radios in the workplace because of PRS licensing requirements; and if he will make a statement. [273290]

Mr. Lammy: My officials met Radio Centre on 23 April this year following a general stakeholder meeting on 20 March, correspondence from Radio Centre dated 2 February, a meeting in November 2008 and Radio Centre's response to the Intellectual Property Office's consultation on changes to exemptions from public performance rights in sound recordings and performers' rights dated October 2008.

We have received a number of representations from businesses about the PRS licence for workplace radio listening, many of which say they are considering ceasing to use the radio.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272142]

Mr. Simon: The Department's building services are provided through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), which manage the buildings that DIUS occupies.

The National Measures Office (NMO) occupies space in Teddington that is owned by DIUS but managed by the NMO.

All of these organisations are currently in the process of scheduling in the works required to satisfy the regulations. The inspection results will be placed in the Libraries.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether a financial penalty will be imposed on higher education institutions for over-recruitment against the admission figures prescribed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England for 2009-10; and whether universities which made offers to their applicants prior to 15 January 2009 will be treated differently to institutions which made offers after that date. [272162]

Mr. Lammy: We are determined to maintain arrangements both for the funding of institutions and support for students that meet needs but are at the same time sustainable. If universities over-recruit, these objectives are jeopardised. We made this clear to institutions last October when we asked HEFCE to "work up contingency measures that could be used to reduce the risk of institutions over recruiting". HEFCE reiterated this message in November when it asked institutions to "review their planned recruitment for 2009/10". Our grant letter to HEFCE repeated this position by asking the Council to "minimise and preferably eliminate over recruitment in 2009/10" and reinforced this by saying that "any over-recruitment in the coming year could result in a transfer of HEFCE grant back to this Department, in order to meet the consequent unanticipated student support costs in that or future years".

As we have been entirely consistent in signalling the particular importance of controlling over-recruitment, HEFCE will treat all institutions in the same way when responding here.

Higher Education: Veterinary Medicine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students from *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* outside the UK undertook university courses in veterinary studies in each of the last five years. [272896]

Mr. Lammy: The numbers of English, Welsh and non-UK domicile enrolments to veterinary science courses, in each of the last five years for which data are available, are shown in the following table.

English, Welsh and non-UK[1] domicile enrolments[2] to veterinary science courses, UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

Academic year	England	Wales	Non-UK
2003/04	2,620	180	445
2004/05	2,860	170	500
2005/06	2,920	180	535
2006/07	3,140	185	665
2007/08	3,280	175	650

[1] Includes EU and other overseas students.
[2] Covers postgraduate and undergraduate students enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
Notes:
1. Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population (SRP).
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to improve skills in the house-building sector in order to assist progress towards the Government's 2016 target for zero carbon homes. [273190]

Mr. Simon: There will be real challenges in responding to the skill needs of the house-building industry in the next few years. Through our continued investment in skills we want to support the house-building and wider construction industry so that they are ready for the upturn and have the skilled workforce required to meet the 2016 target and the demands of a low carbon economy.

The Zero Carbon Hub, established by the Department for Communities and Local Government, aims to ensure that industry can work with Government and other stakeholders to overcome any barriers to delivery. The skills and training strand of this work will establish the industry's current level of knowledge about building to low and zero carbon home standards, and determine any areas where additional skills and training are required and which agencies are best placed to support this. The Homes and Community Agency (HCA) has a parallel skills action plan, supported by DIUS, to ensure the development of sustainable communities.

ConstructionSkills (the sector skills council for construction) are working with the Zero Carbon Hub, the HCA and the UK Green Building Council to understand the wider skills needs of sustainable construction. The results of this research will inform training development and the future shape of qualifications.

Through the Sector Compact agreed with ConstructionSkills in June 2008, some £133 million of Train to Gain funding will be available over three years to support the priority skills needs of the construction sector including house-building. Compacts will be reviewed regularly to ensure they continue to meet the needs of employers in the sector in the light of the need for economic renewal and to address the new and emerging skills needs. We have also established an Apprenticeship Task Force with employers, trade unions, educationalists and Government to review the approach to apprenticeships within the sector, and how it might be expanded and improved.

Measurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 421-2W, on trading standards: weights and measures, what changes to enforcement guidance *(a)* have been made and *(b)* are being made in relation to the prosecution of traders using imperial scales by local authorities. [271282]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows:

(a) None.

(b) Discussions are continuing between Government and the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) on the updating of LACORS' guidance on the enforcement of units of measurement legislation. This guidance will reflect an update to Directive 80/181/EEC and will be available to local authority trading standards departments in advance of the changes to UK law which will be implemented before the end of 2009.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many graduates of universities in England who have moved abroad to *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* non-EU countries have informed the Student Loans Company of their change of status in each of the last five years. [273075]

Mr. Lammy: In the five-year period 2003-04 to 2007-08, around 38,700 income-contingent loan borrowers notified the Student Loans Company (SLC) of a period of overseas residency. Annual statistics are not readily available. 35 per cent. of known overseas residences during that period were in EU countries, 65 per cent. were in non-EU countries.

Training: Energy

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the skills base of employees in the energy sector. [270832]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* Power is the number one industry for the future success of our economy. It currently has an ageing workforce and faces challenges including the asset renewal needed to meet the changing needs of a low carbon economy, and handling the impact of new technology. Energy and Utility Skills (E&U Skills) is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) responsible for the energy sector, and its coverage includes the electricity and gas industries. In common with all SSCs, E&U Skills has developed a Sector Skills Agreement (SSA) which identifies the sector's current and future skills needs. The SSA, which is UK wide, provides a clear platform for employers, training providers and other stakeholders to address the sector's skills needs.

Government are directly supporting the industry through the creation of The National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) and the approval for a National Skills Academy for Power (NSAP), which is at the business planning stage.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force. [272136]

Jonathan Shaw: The costs to DWP are included in the overall facilities price of the Department's private finance initiative contract. The cost to the Department's supplier, Telereal Trillium, to date is £67,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272137]

Jonathan Shaw: There are 234 air conditioning systems with an output of more than 250 kW. Of these 42 have been inspected by accredited energy assessors. The current programme of inspection is due to be completed by the end of July 2009. Copies of the energy assessors' reports, which are held by the Department's PFI service partner, Telereal Trillium, will be placed in the Library shortly.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on IT maintenance in the last 12 months. [272486]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 2005 the Department has had a realigned contract for IT services, which covers the provision of all IT, including maintenance. It is not possible to identify specific costs for IT maintenance.

EU Globalisation Fund

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will co-ordinate a UK bid for funds from the EU Globalisation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [270677]

Mr. McNulty: In England, (different arrangements apply in the devolved Administrations), Regional Development Agencies, with their partners, are responsible for coordinating an immediate response to large redundancies. They are aware of the availability of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) and would make the initial decision about whether a bid would add value to their response. The European Social Fund (ESF) has already been used to invest in Jobcentre Plus, its Rapid Response Service and Train to Gain, the combination of which have already proved to be effective in helping workers and areas affected by restructuring. The EGF must not duplicate use of the ESF but as long as any bid, that were to come forward to my Department, met the criteria, it would receive full consideration.

Hazardous Substances: Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether aircraft *(a)* static on the ground and *(b)* travelling through UK airspace are subject to Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations. [270036]

Jonathan Shaw: Aircraft either static on the ground or travelling through UK airspace are subject to Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended).

Housing Benefit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed housing benefit at least once in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [271349]

Kitty Ussher: Information is not available on the number of times people have claimed housing benefit.

Housing benefit information is not available at constituency level.

The available information is in the following table.

Number of housing benefit recipients in Great Britain and the north-east 1997 to 2007

	Great Britain	North East
August 1997	4,591,920	278,120
August 1998	4,425,210	269,290
August 1999	4,243,410	264,120
August 2000	3,968,250	250,070
August 2001	3,867,480	240,870
August 2002	3,798,760	236,290
August 2003	3,813,560	234,660
August 2004	3,943,590	230,850
August 2005	3,981,020	229,240
August 2006	4,024,280	228,350
August 2007	4,040,940	227,440

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. The totals for Great Britain include estimates for local authorities that have not responded.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, the new data have not yet been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 1997 to 2007.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount claimed by a housing benefit recipient was in each of the last three years. [272216]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following table.

Average amount of housing benefit in each of the last three years for which figures are available - Great Britain 2005-07 (weekly)

	Great Britain (£)
August 2005	63.84
August 2006	67.47
August 2007	71.44

Notes:
1. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
3. Average amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
4. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.
5. This information is available online at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 percent caseload stock-count taken in August 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Incapacity Benefit

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been removed from incapacity benefit because they do not have enough points to continue to qualify in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [270003]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* The available information is in the following table.

The number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance benefit terminations in the most recent 12 month period

	All	*Other reasons*	*Failed either own occupation test or Personal Capability Assessment*
November 2007	175,600	145,900	29,100
February 2008	163,500	134,200	28,900
May 2008	170,600	139,000	31,100
August 2008	172,600	134,800	37,200

Notes:
1. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
2. These figures have been updated to include late notified terminations.
3. Personal Capability Assessment was formerly the 'All Work Test'.
4. Due to operational procedures a small number of Personal Capability Assessment terminations appear in 'Other reasons'.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and total may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 5 per cent. terminations dataset

Income Support: Mortgages

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in North East Fife constituency have received assistance from his Department with the cost of meeting mortgage interest repayments in the last 12 months. [270858]

Kitty Ussher: Information on mortgage interest repayments is not available at constituency level.

Jobcentre Plus

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people have been helped into work by Jobcentre Plus in each *(a)* regional and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each (i) year since its job outcome target was launched and (ii) of the last 24 months. [264241]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of people have been helped into work by Jobcentre Plus in each (a) regional and (b) Jobcentre Plus district in (i) each year since its job outcome target was launched and (ii) each of the last 24 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. Mel Groves is currently on Annual Leave and I am replying in his absence.

The Job Outcome target was introduced in April 2006. It measures the number of people who move into work after help from Jobcentre Plus or one of its partners. It uses HMRC tax data to identify job outcomes and awards points accordingly to the position of the customer in the labour market, allowing us to accord priority to those customers in most need of our help. It includes a broad range of customers, not just those who are unemployed. The type of support our customers require and indeed receive will vary depending on the individuals themselves. The latest data available is to August 2008.

I have placed in the Library the available information regarding the annual and monthly performance of Jobcentre Plus against its Job Outcome Target broken down by region and district. The data reflects the number of people helped into work, not achievement against the Job Outcome Target which is points based.

Jobcentre Plus: Complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what grounds formal complaints were made to Jobcentre Plus in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269756]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question 'on what grounds formal complaints were made to Jobcentre Plus in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement'. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus operates a three-level feedback process in response to issues raised by customers:

Level 1—feedback received by a specific business area that relates solely to Jobcentre Plus business;

Level 2—feedback received direct by a District Manager, or that relates to another business area, for example Local Authorities, or feedback not resolved at level 1; and

Level 3—feedback received direct by the Chief Executive, or feedback not resolved at level 2.

Our customer complaints are then categorised according to the nature of the complaint.

Services—e.g. advisory services, benefits, job broking;

Standards—e.g. waiting times, office environment, information quality; and

Treatment—e.g. equal treatment and helpfulness of staff.

There are currently 48 sub categories which fall under the three standard headings. In the main these cover the primary benefits administered by Jobcentre Plus, staff behaviour and treatment of customers, Jobcentre Plus interventions, Jobcentre Plus programmes and job broking services.

There was no centralised recording of level 1 and 2 complaints before April 2005. The current categories have been in place since then.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff there were on average in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district since November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269758]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, 6 May 2009:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many full-time equivalent customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff there were on average in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district since November 2008. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table below gives the average number of full-time equivalents for customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff by Region and District between November 2008 and February 2009.

Government office region	*District*	*Number*
East Midlands	Derbyshire	1,288
	Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	1,073
	Lincolnshire and Rutland	577
	Nottinghamshire	1,095
Total		4,033
East of England	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	867
	Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	1,041
	Essex	1,227
	Norfolk	646
Total		3,781
London	Central London	475
	City and East London	1,310
	Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	889
	North and North East London	1,492
	South London	1,007
	West London	796
Total		5,969
North East	Northumbria	1,291
	South Tyne and Wear Valley	1,153
	Tees Valley	1,203
Total		3,647
North West	Cheshire and Warrington	485
	Cumbria	496
	Greater Manchester Central	1,191
	Greater Manchester East and West	2,445
	Greater Mersey	973
	Lancashire	1,685
	Liverpool and Wirral	1,750
	Not Known	58
Total		9,082
Scotland	Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	903
	Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders	703
	Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside	1,151
	Glasgow	2,274
	Highland, Islands and Clyde Coast and Grampian	1,392
	Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	751
Total		7,174
South East	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire	852
	Hampshire	1,317
	Kent	1,363
	Surrey and Sussex	1,197
Total		4,729
South West	Devon and Cornwall	1,624
	Dorset and Somerset	741
	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon	668
	West of England	745
Total		3,777
Wales	North and Mid Wales	1,132
	South East Wales	836
	South Wales Valleys	1,271
	South West Wales	871
Total		4,110
West Midlands	Birmingham and Solihull	1,686
	Black Country	1,423
	Coventry and Warwickshire	619
	Staffordshire	979
	The Marches	956
Total		5,663
Yorkshire and The Humber	North and East Yorkshire and The Humber	1,556
	South Yorkshire	1,698
	West Yorkshire	2,108
Total		5,362
Grand Total		57,327

Note:
Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics criteria for counting headcount and details the position at each month end.
Source:
Information for parliamentary questions is usually obtained from the Jobcentre Plus management information portal. This does not contain the level of data requested and therefore data has been taken from an alternative source known as Dataview, extracted from resource management (RM). In a minority of cases it has not been possible to identify the region or district that an individual works in. This is due to the data not being available in RM.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the performance of Jobcentre Plus in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district against each of the indicators for its interventions delivery target (i) in each year since the target was launched and (ii) in each of the last 24 months. [264239]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the performance of Jobcentre Plus in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district against each of the indicators for its interventions delivery target (i) in each year since the target was launched and (ii) in each of the last 24 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Intervention Delivery Target (IDT) was introduced in April 2007. I am therefore able to provide in month district and regional performance for the last 19 months to October 2008. This is because Jobcentre Plus has a time delay of approximately 4 months in its recording of data for IDT.

The target for 2008/09 is made up of the following three components, and measures whether we conduct a number of our main interviews within a given time:

85% of initial Incapacity Benefit work-focused interviews are conducted between week 9 and week 13 of the claim;

85% of Income Support lone parent work-focused interview reviews that become due are conducted within 3 months; and

90% of 13, 26, 52, and 78 week Jobseeker's Allowance interviews (including New Deal initial interviews) that become due are conducted within 6 weeks.

These three components make up the overall national target of 86%, with each component having an equal share of the target.

The target for 2007/08 was made up of the following four components, and measured the timeliness of several of our key mandatory work-focussed interviews:

80% of initial Incapacity Benefit work-focused interviews are conducted after the end of the 8th week and up to the end of the 13th week stage of the claim;

85% of Income Support Lone Parent work focussed interviews that become due are conducted within 3 months;

85% of 13 and 26-week Jobseeker's Allowance advisory interviews that become due are conducted within 6 weeks; and

90% of Jobseeker's Allowance Labour Market Interventions and follow up activity are conducted.

These four components were used to make up the overall national target of 85%. Performance for the Interventions Delivery Target is the mean average of the four components weighted equally.

As the components of the target within these 2 years differed slightly we would not recommend making any direct comparisons of the data.

The available data has been placed in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 26 January from the hon. Member for Manchester Central regarding TW (ref: GREA01009/GAB); and what the reasons are for the time taken to respond. [272983]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply to my hon. Friend's letter of 26 January regarding TW (ref: GREA01009/GAB) was given on 5 May 2009 and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what explanatory and administrative provisions are in place to enable prospective eligible claimants to receive the £1,000 employer payment voucher available from Jobcentre Plus with effect from 6 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [267461]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus staff have been made fully aware of the £1,000 recruitment subsidy through a series of internal communications. Supporting guidance about how to appropriately promote and administer the recruitment subsidy from 6 April 2009 was issued on 23 March 2009.

Jobcentre Plus staff will promote the offer to eligible customers, as appropriate, and issue them with a voucher which they can use to approach employers seeking new employees. In addition, Jobcentre Plus is promoting the £1,000 offer to employers through an initial burst of media advertising across both print and online channels. This will take place from 6 April until 14 May and will feature in selected national press, trade publications and key business websites. All advertising will direct employers to go online to

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/£1000

to receive more information on the offer.

In addition to this Jobcentre Plus have identified a list of key partner websites including Business Link, Train to Gain, and the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, where messages to promote the offer will be held, alongside signposting back to the Jobcentre Plus site.

All activity and take-up of the offer will be monitored and evaluated during May with a view to developing further plans to promote the offer if required.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what discussions he has had with scientists working in the field of voice risk analysis technology on the accuracy of the technology being used by his Department to differentiate between high and low risk claims; and what use he has made of independent scientific evidence when evaluating the system; [265603]

(2) what assessment he has made of the accuracy of voice risk analysis technology in recognising high-risk groups; and what estimate he has made of the level of risk of false positives arising from the use of voice risk analysis technology in relation to elderly callers; [265604]

(3) pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 19-20WS, on voice risk analysis, whether the technology being tested by his Department has been independently evaluated; what use has been made of control groups in which telephone advisers have not been using the technology in evaluating the results of the pilots; and if he will make a statement. [265692]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's evaluation of Voice Risk Analysis technology makes use of previously published research to help test the process and interpret the results.

The Department has not entered into discussions with scientists outside of government at this stage.

The Department has recently made available estimates of the accuracy of the process in recognising both high-risk and low-risk groups. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 19-20WS.

Analysis of the accuracy of the Voice Risk Analysis process amongst elderly callers has not been conducted as yet. Should the Voice Risk Analysis process demonstrate acceptable rates of accuracy in the general population, further work will be undertaken to assess accuracy with respect to differing demographic groups. The data from the phase two local authority trials will enable the Department to assess the risk of false positives in relation to elderly callers.

The Department has not commissioned independent experts to evaluate Voice Risk Analysis. The Department's evaluation is being conducted by Government Statisticians who are required to offer independent advice to support the policy formulation.

The Department's evaluation assesses the accuracy of the Voice Risk Analysis process by comparing the risk found in both 'low' and 'high' risk groups and not through control groups. If the technology is effective, the rate of incorrectness of benefits in the 'high' risk group should be substantially higher than that in the 'low' risk group. This assessment of the difference between the two groups is supported by a range of statistical tests. This is an accepted technique for assessing the accuracy of this type of technology that does not rely on a separate control group.

Unemployed: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed people in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire Jobcentre Plus were assisted into employment in each of the last five years. [265803]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table.

Number of job seeker's allowance claimants who returned to work

	April 2004 to March 2005	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*April 2006 to March 2007*	*April 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to March 2009*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire (JCP district)	23,055	21,065	19,910	20,185	21,610
Hemel Hempstead (parliamentary constituency)	1,750	1,555	1,520	1,555	1,580

Notes:
1. Number off-flows moving into employment include claimants who increased their employment hours beyond 16 per week.
2. This information is published on the Nomis website at www.nomisweb.co.uk.
3. The percentage of people leaving with an unknown destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years. This is because the completion levels of the JSA40 (forms filled in by people leaving Jobseeker's Allowance) have decreased over this period. This should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics, as many of these 'unknown' leavers will have moved into employment or other benefits.

Source:
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only)

Unemployment: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to address seasonal unemployment fluctuation in seaside towns; and if he will make a statement. [262997]

Mr. McNulty: Analysis carried out in response to the 2007 CLG Select Committee report on coastal towns showed that seasonal work accounted for less than 1 per cent. of total employment in coastal towns, ranging from a low of 0.4 per cent. of employment in winter to at most 1.7 per cent. in the summer months.

The extent to which seasonal employment affects coastal towns varies across areas, reflecting their differing labour market characteristics. This underlines the need for local and regional interventions which are sensitive to local requirements and their interrelationships with the surrounding areas.

Regional Development Agencies are supporting coastal towns through their regional economic strategies with a wider focus on the broader objectives of addressing employment, enterprise and skills in coastal areas.

Where seasonal employment is a key driver of the local economy this needs to be considered as part of the wider regeneration and economic development of the local area and inform the regional economic strategy and local area agreement process.

The Department for Work and Pensions, through Jobcentre Plus, provides a national system of help and support to those affected by unemployment, wherever they live. People are able to make use of the job matching service available through local Jobcentre Plus offices or the internet. Fast track access to more intensive support is available to individuals facing particular labour market disadvantages and tailored help is available through the New Deal and Pathways to Work programmes for those claiming other welfare benefits, such as lone parents or those with a health problem or disability.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 7 May 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Religious Broadcasting

9. **Robert Key:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church of England has made recent representations to broadcasters on trends in levels of religious broadcasting. [273158]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Church of England is in regular contact with broadcasters, and the BBC in particular, and seeks to help them retain and develop religious broadcasting. The Bishop of Manchester wrote on the Church's behalf to the Director General of the BBC about recent changes in the Religion and Ethics department and I understand he has received an encouraging response.

Carbon Footprint

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what steps the Church Commissioners are taking to reduce the carbon footprint of their activities. [273154]

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what steps the Church Commissioners are taking to reduce the carbon footprint of their activities. [273275]

Sir Stuart Bell: In the last two years the Commissioners have increased from seven to 24 the number of fuel-efficient hybrid-power cars provided to bishops. They also share in the energy-efficiency measures in place at Church House, Westminster including the use of lower-energy heating and lighting systems, and recycling facilities. They are also improving their approach to sustainability in land management.

Church Commissioners: Finance

John Robertson: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what effect the financial situation has had on the investment policy adopted by the Church Commissioners. [273152]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners continue to diversify their portfolio and allocate more capital internationally but the financial situation has not caused them to change their overall policy of holding the majority of their assets in equities and property.

The financial situation to which my hon. Friend refers is a moving target, however, and I assure him that they keep it under constant review.

Church of England: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what proportion of the Church of England's running costs in each of the last three years was met by the Church Commissioners. [273479]

Sir Stuart Bell: Around one sixth.

Lambeth Palace

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the cost of *(a)* running and *(b)* maintaining Lambeth Palace was in each of the last three years. [273478]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners' policy is not to make public the running and maintenance costs of individual bishops' residences.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Registration

8. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the Electoral Commission's most recent estimate is of *(a)* the number of non-British EU citizens who are registered to vote in the United Kingdom and *(b)* the number of non-British EU citizens who are wrongly registered to vote as British citizens. [273157]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that figures from the Office for National Statistics show that 961,681 non-British EU citizens were registered to vote in the United Kingdom as of 1 December 2008. This figure does not include EU citizens from the Republic of Ireland, Malta or Cyprus.

The Commission further informs me that no estimate has been made of the number of non-British EU citizens who are wrongly registered to vote as British citizens. All applicants are required to state their nationality on the registration form and electoral registration officers can request evidence as to nationality.

Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the likelihood of fraud in the 2009 European Parliament elections. [273153]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has issued detailed guidance to police and returning officers, jointly with the Association of Chief Police Officers, on assessing the risk of electoral malpractice at elections.

It is the operational responsibility of returning officers and the police to assess the risk of electoral malpractice at specific elections, including the 2009 European parliamentary elections.

TRANSPORT

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many sites were available to run module one of the new motorcycle test on 27 April 2009 of each type in each region. [272771]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides the information on operational sites for the new module one motorcycling test on 27 April.

	Operational multi purpose test centres	*VOSA sites (weekend)*	*Casual hire sites*
South West	6	4	
London and South East	6	4	1
East Anglia	5		
East Midlands	5		1
West Midlands	3	1	1
Yorks and Humberside	3	2	1
North East	2		
North West	5	2	1
Wales	3		
Scotland	6	3	1
Total	44	16	6

Driving: Elderly

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal road traffic accidents were caused by drivers aged *(a)* 70 to 79, *(b)* 80 to 89 and *(c)* over 89 years old in each of the last 10 years. [273573]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1575W.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to amend regulations for vehicle excise duty (VED) refund applications to prevent VED refund claims being made by a vehicle seller before the new registered keeper's details have been updated by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [273258]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 2008 Finance Act introduced changes to ensure that refunds of vehicle excise duty (VED) are available only in specific circumstances. As these changes only came into effect on 1 January 2009, no further changes are currently planned.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what reports he has received of allegations of the fraudulent use of V5C forms with serial numbers between *(a)* BG8229501 and BG9999030 and *(b)* BI2305501 and BI2800000; [272465]

(2) how many V5C forms with serial numbers between *(a)* BG8229501 and BG9999030 and *(b)* BI2305501 and BI2800000 have been misplaced by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency or its contractors. [272466]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* The precise circumstances surrounding the theft of vehicle registration certificates (V5C) falling within the serial number ranges quoted are the subject of an ongoing police investigation.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is aware of 1,163 V5C documents within this range that have been stolen and used fraudulently.

DVLA took practical steps to alert the public to the situation, issuing a series of national press releases leading to advice appearing in various national publications.

Railways: South East

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail services Southeastern Railway has cancelled in the last 12 months. [273205]

Paul Clark: In the year to 31 March 2009, London and South Eastern Railway cancelled 7,326 trains. This is 1.2 per cent. of the number of trains that they planned to operate.

Roads: Safety

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving Trief kerbs have been recorded in the last 12 months. [273520]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not collected.

Roads: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of central Government funding for road improvements in each local authority area in the South West region. [272528]

Paul Clark: Local major schemes, including road improvements, costing over £5 million need to be identified by the respective region for funding within its regional funding allocation. This funding is based on a formula which reflects the population of the specific region.

In addition to funds for specific major schemes, the Department for Transport also allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport for schemes costing under £5 million. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

Speed Limits: Safety

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on road safety of a reduction of the 60mph speed limit to 50mph. [273200]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 21 April, the Department for Transport published a consultation paper, 'A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World'.

This paper highlighted the high casualty rates on rural roads, which carry 40 per cent. of traffic, but account for 62 per cent. of road deaths. Of particular concern are rural single carriageways. In the document we propose to publish stronger guidance on these roads and to provide information annually to highway authorities about the most dangerous roads. It will be for individual highway authorities to consider reducing speed limits.

The consultation proposals and background research can be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/roadsafetyconsultation

Transport: Local Government

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to assess the transport infrastructure needs of local authorities with Growth Point status; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure sufficient funding is provided to meet those needs. [272530]

Paul Clark: In 2008, Department for Transport officials collaborated with colleagues in Communities and Local Government and regional Government Offices to set up an information management structure for the infrastructure requirements of new growth points and growth areas. That structure is now in place and provides the framework for the Department's continuing efforts to understand and offer assistance to overcome the transport challenges faced by growth point authorities. The Department has recognised the importance of streamlining mainstream funding with the needs of housing growth, and encouraging regions to do the same: up to 2014, most of the schemes in the national roads programme and over half of the regional funding allocation pot go some way towards supporting housing growth. In addition, the Department has sought to maximise the capacity of the community infrastructure fund, which is dedicated to supporting housing growth.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Expenditure

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the funding for 2008 for Vehicle and Operator Services Agency testing services announced on 30 July 2008 the Agency spent in 2008. [273014]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The funding announced on 30 July relates to the provision of loan funding from the Department for Transport, which is to be repaid with interest. A loan of £20 million has been received which has been spent in the 2008-09 financial year.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on national implementation of his Department's Simple Speedy Summary Justice programme. [272994]

Bridget Prentice: Following the publication of Delivering Simple Speedy Summary Justice in July 2006, the Criminal Justice Simple, Speedy, Summary programme was implemented in all magistrates court across England and Wales by March 2008. Since implementation the estimated average time from charge to disposal in the magistrates courts for adult charged cases (excluding committals) has dropped from 61 days in the year to March 2007 to 48 days in December 2008 and the average number of hearings has reduced by around 20 per cent. Following the success of this project, Her Majesty's Courts Service has now implemented a similar programme for youth cases where the estimated average time from charge to disposal for youth cases has dropped from 52 to 40 days (over the same time period).

Courts: Video Conferencing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the *(a)* efficiency savings and *(b)* savings in time for (i) police officers and (ii) others arising from the virtual court pilot at Camberwell Green; when he plans to initiate the second pilot site in north Kent; whether a timetable has been established for the national implementation of virtual courts; and when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the law on the right of the defendant to consent to attendance at a virtual court. [272995]

Bridget Prentice: A business case for virtual courts was developed based on the experience of the prototype run in London in 2007. This suggested that a pilot linking Camberwell Green magistrates court and 15 police stations could yield benefits of £2.2 million per annum for the Metropolitan Police, National Offender Management Service and Crown Prosecution Service. This includes efficiency savings (for example reduced prisoner transport costs) and savings in staff time for police officers and other staff in the criminal justice system.

The costs and benefits of virtual courts will be tested fully in further pilots which are due to commence at the first sites in London later this month and last for 12 months. The pilot in North Kent is due to commence at the end of June 2009.

No timetable has been established for the national roll out of virtual courts. The pilots will be evaluated thoroughly and the findings will inform decisions on wider roll-out.

The Coroners and Justice Bill currently before Parliament contains provisions removing the requirement for defendant consent to participate in virtual courts.

Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many British citizens have taken up residence in *(a)* Guernsey, *(b)* Jersey and *(c)* the Isle of Man in the last five years. [272675]

Mr. Wills: The information sought is not held in the form requested. The following details have been obtained from the Governments of Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man.

(a) Guernsey does not hold any accurate data on the subject.

(b) Jersey does not collect information on the nationality of persons who choose to take up residence.

(c) In the Isle of Man, the 2006 census recorded that 7,406 British citizens who were not born in the Isle of Man came to the island to live between 2001 and 2006 and were still living on the island on census day.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many British citizens have taken up residence in Alderney and Sark in the last five years. [272676]

Mr. Wills: The information sought is not held in the form requested. Details were sought from the Governments of Alderney and Sark but such information is not collected by the islands.

Crown Dependencies: Microgeneration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which Crown Dependencies micro-generation electricity production schemes are in operation. [272633]

Mr. Wills: The Crown Dependencies are self governing dependencies of the Crown and responsible for their own internal affairs, including the generation of electricity. While this is not a matter in which the Ministry of Justice is involved we understand that the Isle of Man has a small hydro generation facility and that Guernsey and Jersey do not currently run such schemes.

Crown Dependencies: Renewable Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much electricity is generated from renewable resources in each of the Crown Dependencies. [272632]

Mr. Wills: The Crown Dependencies are self governing dependencies of the Crown and have their own directly elected legislative assemblies, administrative, fiscal and legal systems. The Ministry of Justice does not keep information on the amount of electricity generated from renewable resources in the Crown Dependencies.

Crown Dependencies: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of (a) Guernsey's and (b) Jersey's gross domestic product was generated by the tourism sector in each of the last five years. [272674]

Mr. Wills: The information sought is not held in the form requested, but the following details have been obtained from the Governments of Guernsey and Jersey.

(a) Guernsey does not hold specific figures on the contribution of "tourism" to gross domestic product, nor any figures that take multiplier effects into account. However, the percentage of gross domestic product generated by the hostelry and recreation sectors is regarded as a good representation of the contribution of tourism to GDP. The percentages for the last five years for which figures are available are:

	Percentage
2003	4.84
2004	4.58
2005	4.51
2006	4.22
2007	4.19

(b) Jersey does not measure its economy in terms of gross domestic product but of gross value added (GVA). There is no accurate data available on the contribution of the "tourism sector".

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272187]

Maria Eagle: The number of departmental buildings we currently have information for that are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output is 37 and the number of these systems that have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 is 35. We are still gathering information for Her Majesty's Prison Service, HMCS and Ministry of Justice HQ Core Estate. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this information is received. To place copies of inspection reports in the Library would incur disproportionate cost as the Ministry of Justice has responsibility for over 100 buildings.

Drugs: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of sentence for those sentenced to immediate custody for possession of cannabis was in each year since 1997. [272026]

Maria Eagle: The available information is shown in the following table. Figures for year 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009.

Average custodial sentence length of offenders sentenced to immediate custody for possession[1] of cannabis, 1997 to 2007

	Average custodial sentence length (months)
1997	4.5
1998	4.2
1999	3.2
2000	3.1
2001	3.5
2002	3.4
2003	4.0
2004	3.8
2005	4.0
2006	2.8
2007	3.1

[1] Having possession of a controlled drug (cannabis) under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (as S(2) [Class 'C' drug] as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Sec 157. Cannabis use to be classified as class 'B' before it was reclassified as class 'C' in 29 January 2004.

Notes:

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Jersey

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the purpose was of the visit by Ministers of his Department to Jersey on 17 April; whom Ministers met during that visit; and what matters were discussed at those meetings. [272536]

Mr. Wills: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Lord Bach) visited Jersey on 17 April. This was his first visit since being appointed Minister with responsibility for the Crown Dependencies and an opportunity to meet key figures in the Government of Jersey. He met the Chief Minister, Deputy Minister, Bailiff and Deputy Bailiff. The matters for discussion included the G20 summit, Tax Information Exchange Agreements, the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, and the Health Foods and Medicines Directives.

Jersey: Dietary Supplements

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent information is on the likely timetable for the implementation by Jersey of *(a)* the EU Food Supplements Directive and *(b)* the EU Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [272537]

Mr. Wills: Our most recent information on these matters is as follows:

Jersey Health Protection is continuing to work on law drafting instructions, for the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulations although law drafting time has yet to be allocated in the legislation programme.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to work with Jersey to progress the implementation of these two matters.

Land Registry: Fraud

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to prevent the unauthorised amendment for the purposes of fraud of house ownership information on the HM Land Registry website. [273350]

Mr. Wills: It is not possible for an amendment to be made to the register of title through Land Registry's website. The Find a Property service, formerly known as Land Register Online, which is available through the website only allows users to view or obtain information, for example, a copy of the register for a particular property. This information is also available to any person who applies to Land Registry by post or in person. The Land Register has been open to the public since 1990.

Land Registry views registration fraud very seriously. It has had a number of measures to help combat fraud in place for some time, including identity verification for the parties to registration applications and service of notice on property owners in certain circumstances. It also constantly keeps its anti-fraud strategy under review and changes its procedures as appropriate to meet developing threats.

Legal Advice and Assistance: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 667W, on legal advice and assistance: travelling people, what the location of each planning application handled by each local authority was; and whether the representation was in relation to *(a)* a new planning application, *(b)* retrospective planning permission, *(c)* planning enforcement and *(d)* another matter; [272390]

(2) what the *(a)* type of planning inquiry and *(b)* location of each development was in respect of each case in which funding was provided. [273261]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice does not record the locations involved in legal aid applications for representation at planning inquiries as a matter of course. It is possible that by giving details of those locations, the identities of individual legal aid clients would be revealed. As these are personal data, they are not routinely disclosed.

Applications for exceptional funding for legal representation at planning inquiries usually concern an appeal against a local authority's rejection of an application for planning permission and may also pertain to enforcement. MOJ does not record applications for exceptional funding for planning inquiries by any sub-categories.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 667W, on legal advice and assistance: travelling people, what the cost to the public purse of the grant through the exceptional funding scheme was. [272391]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 917W.

The total cost of exceptional funding grants to Travellers in the financial year 2008-09 remains the same as the amount stated in my earlier answer, as no further grants were made before the end of the financial year.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 667W, on legal advice and assistance: travelling people, how much grant funding was given in each case. [273260]

Mr. Malik: The grant of funding in each case was:

Financial year 2007-08

	£
Tunbridge Wells County Council	2,114.50
Basildon District Council	1,614.50
North Somerset Council	2,317.40
North Somerset Council	2,214.68
Tandridge District Council	1,897.04
Dartford Borough Council	1,614.70
South Staffordshire District Council	1,267.87

Financial year 2007-08

	£
Surrey Heath Borough Council	2,264.50
London Borough of Bromley	1,635.56
Bath and North East Somerset Council	4,127.93
Wyre Forest District Council	2,114.00
Lewes District Council	2,468.75
South Somerset District Council[1]	1,897.04
South Gloucester Council[1]	2,011.60
Wealden District Council[1]	2,321.65
Wealden District Council[1]	1,614.50
Total	33,496.22

[1] The names of these authorities have been confirmed since the initial question was answered.

Financial year 2008-09

	£
Mid Devon District Council	2,021.08
Rother District Council	1,614.50
Chichester District Council	1,309.53
Canterbury City Council	2,508.00
Kent County Council	2,114.50
Bedford Borough Council	1,614.50
Lewes District Council	1,057.25
Ashford Borough Council	1,719.33
Total	13,958.69

The total cost of exceptional funding grants to Travellers in the financial year 2008-09 remains the same as the amount stated in my initial answer, as no further grants were made before the end of the financial year.

The final amounts paid may have varied slightly from the figures aforementioned as the Legal Services Commission can adjust the grant if necessary (for example if the hearing is longer, or shorter, than expected).

Legal Aid: Expenditure

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on legal aid in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* Devon and *(d)* East Devon constituency in each of the last 10 years. [272611]

Mr. Malik: Figures for *(a)* and *(b)* are only readily available for the last seven years. These are shown in the following table. Figures for *(c)* and *(d)* could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The data come from several databases some of which do not go down to the level of detail requested. Manual extraction of the data would take several days.

	England	*£ million South West*
2001-02	1,628	122
2002-03	1,861	138
2003-04	2,035	146
2004-05	1,978	157
2005-06	1,953	145
2006-07	1,882	135
2007-08	1,929	132

Note:
Small elements of expenditure which cannot be split regionally (e.g. CDS Direct) have been excluded.

Legal Aid: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on legal aid in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. [272792]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The data come from several databases some of which do not go down to the level of detail requested. Manual extraction of the data would take several days.

Victim Support: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding from his Department has been allocated to the organisation Victim Support in each of the last five years. [273422]

Maria Eagle: Victim Support has received an annual grant of £30 million from the Ministry of Justice in each of the past five years.

In addition Victim Support received £5.6 million in 2007-8 and £7 million in 2008-9 to finance Victim Support Plus.

Youth Justice

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what impact assessment was made of *(a)* the decision to reduce the number of places contracted for custodial places in local authority secure children's homes and *(b)* the allocation of £20 million for development or redevelopment of new young offender institutions for juveniles. [270770]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The decision to reduce the number of secure children's home places for which the Youth Justice Board (YJB) contracts was taken following a comprehensive analysis by the YJB of recent data, which showed that the optimum number of secure children's home places that should be contracted for was 191. The YJB is confident that this number will meet future levels of demand.

The allocation of £20 million of capital provision in 2008-09 for the development or redevelopment of young offender institutions (YOIs) was not directly related to the decision about the award of contracts to secure children's homes. For the most part, secure children's homes and YOIs cater for different age groups within the under-18 custodial population. The £20 million has been used by the YJB to develop and improve facilities at a number of YOIs. Capital investment in secure children's home is the responsibility of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many under 14 year olds were treated for alcohol-related health problems in each county in the East of England region in the last 12 months. [273244]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested on the number of 14-year-olds treated for alcohol-related health problems in each county in the east of England region in the last 12 months is not held centrally. However, the number of admissions of patients under 14 and resident in east of England with an alcohol-related condition in 2007-08 (the latest 12-month period for which data are available) is shown in the following table:

Number of admissions of patients under 14 and resident in east of England with an alcohol related condition in 2007-08

County	Number
Peterborough	*
Luton	*
Southend-on-Sea	*
Thurrock	*
Bedfordshire	*
Cambridgeshire	6
Essex	17
Hertfordshire	10
Norfolk	*
Suffolk	14
East of England total	72

Notes:
1. The data are for residents of the East of England, rather than patients treated in the east of England.
2. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are unsmoothed).
3. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*'. Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.
4. The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 18s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed:
alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6);
alcoholic gastritis (K.29.2);
alcoholic liver disease (K.70);
alcoholic myopathy (G72.1);
alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1);
alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4);
chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K.86.0);
degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2);
mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F.10);
accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45);
ethanol poisoning (T51.0);
methanol poisoning (T51.1); and
toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9).
5. These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (x14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in an HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
6. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (x14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES dataset and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
7. As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
8. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
9. Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.
10. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the national health service have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Appendicitis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were treated for a ruptured appendix in each hospital trust in England in the most recent year for which figures are available; [271185]

(2) how many people were treated for a ruptured appendix in hospital in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [271186]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on treatment for ruptured appendices, specifically, is not collected centrally.

However, we can supply figures for finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of 'acute appendicitis with generalized peritonitis'. This includes perforation, peritonitis (generalized), and rupture.

A table containing these data has been placed in the Library.

Cannabis: Children

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years sought treatment for cannabis use in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* Suffolk in the last 12 months. [273245]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on those seeking treatment for drug use are not collected centrally. Data on those in treatment are collected and the following table gives figures for under 16-year-olds in treatment for cannabis, both for primary and adjunctive use, for England, the east of England and Suffolk. These figures are based on data for 2007-08, the most recent period for which data are available.

	Primary	*Adjunctive*
England	6,075	2,075
East of England	380	116
Suffolk	52	21

Notes:
1. If a client starts the year already in treatment, age is taken at 1 April, if they begin treatment during the year, age is taken at triage.
2. Figures are provided for primary use (the substance that brought the client into treatment) and adjunctive use (a substance additional to the primary drug used by the client).

Carbon Monoxide: Departmental Responsibilities

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1232W, on carbon monoxide: departmental co-ordination, (1) whether Ministers from his Department attended the Health and Safety Executive-led Officials Group on Gas Safety and Carbon Monoxide Awareness on 5 September 2007; and if he will make a statement; [273110]

(2) whether Ministers took part in meetings on carbon monoxide took place in the three years to September 2007. [273126]

Dawn Primarolo: No Ministers attended the meeting of the Health and Safety Executive-led Officials Group on Gas Safety and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness on 5 September 2007.

There was one meeting of the Ministerial Group on Gas Safety and CO Awareness. This took place on 14 June 2007.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff on temporary contracts are employed at his Department's offices at Richmond House; and what entitlement such staff have to *(a)* sick and *(b)* holiday pay. [273224]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department uses the Home Office Framework set up by the Home Office to engage temporary agency staff. This is used by several other Government Departments as well as Health.

The numbers of workers on temporary contracts requested for Richmond House are given in the following table.

Person type	*Total full-time equivalents*
Agency worker	52.1
Consultant	4.1
Contractor	4.0
Total	60.1

This is based on data as at 31 March 2009 from the Department's Business Management System.

The relevant temporary staff agencies are responsible for managing their staff's sick leave and annual leave entitlements and not the contracting authority, in this instance the Department.

The provision of non-permanent staff as specialist contractors is under tax exemption IR35 and as such the contractors are deemed to be self-employed. The Work Time Regulations do not apply, there is no holiday entitlement outside of public holidays and the contract is therefore silent on this matter.

Health Services

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the NHS budget which was allocated to services for those over the age of 60 years in the last 12 months. [273280]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on actual expenditure by age group is not available. Further, primary care trusts' (PCTs) allocations are not broken down by age or on any other basis: there is no ring fencing of funding for individual groups.

The weighted capitation formula determines the target funding allocations of PCTs and takes account of the higher cost of providing health care services for those in the older age groups. The formula takes account also of the need for health care services due to the health status and socio-economic characteristics of each PCT's population. Actual allocations depend also on pace-of-change policy: how quickly PCTs are moved towards their target allocation through the distribution of additional funding.

The Hospital and Community Health Services component of the formula for 2009-10 and 2010-11 accounts for 76 per cent. of the total target allocation. An estimated 54 per cent. of this component is accounted for by those aged 60 and over, who make up 22 per cent. of the population. The formula is derived using data on actual costs from 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Information for the age group 60 and over is not available for other components of the formula or for the target allocations used to inform PCT allocations in 2008-09.

Further information about the application of weighted capitation formula can be found in "Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula (Sixth Edition)", a copy of which has already been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria his Department's Rapid Review Panel uses in judging the suitability of products intended for use in the NHS. [273370]

Ann Keen: The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) provides the Department with prompt assessment of new and novel products or protocols designed to reduce healthcare associated infections (HCAI). Prior to submission for assessment by the RRP, a new product or process must fulfil certain criteria, and the application form should contain the following information:

contact details of the manufacturer;

product/process name and date of release;

where the product/process is marketed;

how it will contribute to reducing HCAIs;

in what respect it is innovative/new;

the mechanism of action;

the in vitro activity of the product;

evidence of the product's impact on HCAIs;

references;

proof of risk and safety assessment; and

authorization.

Following initial scrutiny products are reviewed on a case-by-case basis on the information presented by the applicant. The focus of the panel's review is on the on the products clinical effectiveness and its impact in combating healthcare associated infections. Each product submitted may receive one of the following recommendations:

basic research and development, validation and recent in use evaluations have shown benefits that should be available to national health service bodies to include as appropriate in their cleaning, hygiene or infection control protocols;

basic research and development has been completed and the product may have potential value; in use evaluations/trials are now needed in an NHS clinical setting;

a potentially useful new concept but insufficiently validated; more research and development is required before it is ready for evaluation in practice;

not a significant improvement on equipment/materials/products already available which claim to contribute to reducing health care associated infection; no further consideration needed;

unlikely to contribute to the reduction of health care associated infection; no further consideration needed;

insufficient clarity/evidence presented to enable full review of the product;

an already well established product that does not merit further consideration by the panel; or

the product is not sufficiently related to infection control procedures to merit consideration by the panel.

These recommendations are available on the Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1200055729551?p=1158313434380

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for data to be collected in future on waiting times for hospital treatment in order to monitor the performance of NHS trusts; and if he will make a statement. [273227]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department collects a range of waiting times returns to monitor national health service waiting times performance against its published operational standards as set out in the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10 and in the handbook to the NHS Constitution. Both publications have already been placed in the Library.

These returns cover referral to treatment (RTT), inpatient and outpatient stage of treatment waiting times, diagnostics, accident and emergency, coronary heart disease and genito-urinary medicine. In addition the cancer national database is used to monitor progress on cancer waits.

All these returns are kept under regular review.

In Vitro Fertilisation: Standards

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which assisted fertility centres are following guidance from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on witnessing clinical and laboratory practices during in vitro fertilisation treatment; and if he will make a statement. [273251]

Dawn Primarolo: The Code of Practice published by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) sets out requirements that must be met by providers of treatment services regulated under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, such as in vitro fertilisation (IVF). These requirements include procedures for witnessing critical stages of a treatment cycle. In the case of witnessing, the existing requirements were drawn up in 2006, based on external expert advice, and were incorporated into the Code of Practice in 2007.

All HFEA licensed centres are required to witness the critical points of the clinical and laboratory processes involved in IVF. Compliance with this requirement is one of the key areas examined during a HFEA inspection visit to a licensed centre. Any breach of the licence condition relating to witnessing and/or non-compliance with HFEA guidance on witnessing is documented in the report of the inspection visit. This report is then considered by a Licence Committee of the authority. It is the responsibility of the Licence Committee to decide whether any regulatory action should be taken.

In addition, all licensed centres are required to report any adverse incident that relates to the witnessing of clinical and laboratory practices. These incidents are reviewed and followed up either by means of a further inspection or an investigation.

Influenza

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department has conducted into the use of antimicrobial products for the purpose of preventing the spread of influenza viruses; and if he will make a statement; [273376]

(2) if he will make it his policy to encourage the use of antimicrobial products for the purpose of preventing the spread of influenza viruses; and if he will make a statement. [273377]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not commissioned research into the use of antimicrobial products, as there is already scientific evidence to show that influenza viruses are readily deactivated by washing with soap and water or alcohol hand-rub and by cleaning surfaces with normal cleaning agents.

The Department continues to advise the public of the importance of good respiratory and hand hygiene to minimise the risk of influenza transmission.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Ann Keen) plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale West of 8 September 2008. [273622]

Dawn Primarolo: A reply was issued to the hon. Member on 7 October 2008.

NHS: Assets

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much land each NHS organisation indicated in its estates return it expected to have available for disposal in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [272930]

(2) what information each NHS organisation submitted in its estates return on its anticipated receipts from net land and property disposal in 2007-08. [272945]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

This information was provided by national health service trusts through the annual Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) 2007-08 returns. The data are correct as at 31 March 2008. There is a possibility that the situation has changed since then.

The information is collected on a compulsory basis from NHS trusts, except foundation trusts who can provide the data on a non-compulsory basis if they wish. The information has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS organisation received in net land and property disposal receipts in each year since 2002-03, according to data from estates return information collection (ERIC) returns; and what the ERIC code for each organisation was in each year. [272944]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

Since 2004-05, the Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts on the amount received in land and property disposal receipts within the reporting year, through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). The available data for each year since 2004-05 have been placed in the Library.

The information is collected on a compulsory basis from NHS trusts in England, including Foundation trusts. The information has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria his Department uses to accredit systems for the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework; and which suppliers and systems have been accredited. [272802]

Mr. Bradshaw: Suppliers' systems were not "accredited" as a part of the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework (ASCC) framework procurement. The purpose of the procurement was to create a framework of suppliers with demonstrated capacity and capability in various specialisms. Subsequently, on identification of a business need, each national health service procuring body will specify its particular requirements to suppliers in the most appropriate service category. It will be for suppliers to demonstrate how they can meet this need against the procurements' specific evaluation criteria. Those suppliers included on the ASCC framework may be found by utilising the following link:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/industry/ascc

A copy of the relevant lists of supplier has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the contracts for information systems procured by trusts through the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework (ASCCF) are held centrally in his Department; whether the cost of local specification for systems obtained by trusts through the ASCCF will be met centrally by the Department; and whether this capital is to be taken from the original budget for the National Programme for IT. [272803]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework contracts are held and is managed centrally in the Department by NHS Connecting for Health. They provide for other contracting authorities, such as individual trusts, to procure systems and services for themselves utilising the framework. Funding for specific requirements is always determined on a case-by-case basis and no final decisions have been taken as to the funding arrangements, including the utilisation of existing budgets.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the agreed costs of each information system in the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework (ASCCF) are; and by what process trusts in the Southern cluster of the National Programme for IT who are not managed by BT procure systems from the ASCCF; [272804]

(2) how many sites in the Southern cluster of the National Programme for IT have been granted permission to choose a system through the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework. [272805]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework (ASCCF) does not specify agreed system costs as it is not possible to know in advance the particular requirements that national health service organisations seeking to use the framework will have. Instead the ASCC framework includes provisions that cap the profit margin, man-day rates, and overhead rates that may be charged by suppliers. The framework is available for use by any NHS organisation. However, the details of the central procurement arrangements for delivery of the national programme for information technology in the South for those not serviced by the BT contract will be announced in due course.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W, on NHS: information and communications technology, what percentage of the £92.8 million paid to BT as working capital for the National Programme for IT's Southern cluster will be deducted from the amount paid to the company upon delivery of the systems for which it is contracted. [273076]

Mr. Bradshaw: All of it.

Nutrition

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will give consideration to the recommendations of the report by the British Medical Association on Early Life Nutrition in implementing the joint strategy on children and young people's health; [272306]

(2) if he will take steps to improve public awareness of the effect on foetal development and long-term health of a variation in diet and nutrition of *(a)* pregnant women and *(b)* babies. [272358]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is aware of the British Medical Association's (BMA) report and has noted their recommendations. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) have been asked to review evidence on the influence of maternal, fetal and child nutrition status, including growth and development in utero and early childhood, on the development of disease later in life.

In taking this work forward, the committee is considering the evidence around maternal, fetal and early life factors, including infant diet and growth, and are also considering the BMA report. SACN aims to publish their final report later this year.

Palliative Care: Children

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of children receiving long-term ventilation *(a)* in hospital, *(b)* in their own homes, *(c)* in residential care and *(d)* elsewhere. [272752]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Pharmacy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms his Department plans to put in place to ensure that primary care trusts considering a new pharmacy application take account of competition and choice, as referred to in the Pharmacy White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [272697]

Phil Hope: Subject to parliamentary approval, clause 24 of the Health Bill amends the NHS Act 2006 to replace the current market entry test so that primary care trusts (PCTs) will in future determine whether a new prospective provider will be admitted to a PCT's pharmaceutical list (or an existing listing can be amended) by reference to and determined against its pharmaceutical needs assessment. Regulations will in due course set out the detailed requirements of what must be contained in those assessments and may also prescribe matters which a PCT must consider when making a decision on an application.

When we consulted on these measures last autumn in "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future—proposals for legislative change", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, we proposed to carry forward a number of factors introduced in the 2005 regulations, which help PCTs reach their decisions. These factors include the choice and diversity of providers or of services.

We expect to work closely with stakeholders and will take account of observations in a recent court appeal case when drafting these regulations.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what opportunities pharmacists working in *(a)* academia, *(b)* industry and *(c)* other areas, other than general practice, will have to register with the General Pharmacy Council under his Department's proposals for a draft Pharmacy Order 2009; whether his Department's proposals will allow retired pharmacists to be able to describe themselves as such; and if he will make a statement. [273141]

Phil Hope: Ministers will shortly be publishing the formal response to the consultation on the draft Pharmacy Order 2009, which will include registration criteria for all pharmacists in Great Britain. There is nothing in the draft Pharmacy Order 2009 that would prevent a person from describing themselves as a "retired pharmacist".

Pregnancy: Health Education

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that the Change 4 Life public awareness campaign includes information for young women about the importance of health and well-being before pregnancy with regard to *(a)* diet, *(b)* optimal body weight, *(c)* smoking and *(d)* alcohol consumption. [271753]

Dawn Primarolo: The Change4Life campaign seeks to address the rising tide of obesity in England through marketing communications about diet and activity that address the target groups of families having at least one child under the age of 11. The priority groups for 2009-10 include pregnant women, families with children under the age of two, and 'at risk' families, those whose current behaviours and/or attitudes suggest that their children are most at risk of weight gain.

Change4Life currently provides information about diet and activity-related behaviours only (not smoking or alcohol consumption), and as this is a prevention campaign, it focuses on how these behaviours relate to children, i.e. what and how children eat, and how much they are physically active. The Change4Life campaign does not, therefore, currently target adults about their own diet and activity behaviours, rather it targets adults who are parents, about their children. It does not currently target adults who do not have children, or those planning a pregnancy.

However, the Department will consider the feasibility of communicating to those planning a pregnancy when it develops plans for a pregnancy-specific strand of the Change4Life campaign later this year.

With regards to tobacco and alcohol, there have been campaigns this year that have targeted pregnant women, as follows:

Smoking

an NHS Smokefree campaign targeting pregnant smokers launched in February 2009. Initial results show a 196 per cent. increase in calls against February 2008. Further information can be found at:

www.smokefree.nhs.uk/smoking-and-pregnancy/

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the dangers of smoking and the immediate benefits of becoming smokefree for pregnant women and their babies, offers telephone stop smoking support and new resources.

The campaign focused on women already pregnant, rather than those trying to conceive. However, relevant information for those trying to conceive is included on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/chq/pages/2319.aspx

Alcohol consumption

A national campaign to improve the public's understanding of units of alcohol was launched in May 2008, featuring two phases. Phase 1 focused on improving peoples knowledge of how many units of alcohol are in the alcoholic drinks they consume, while phase 2 focused on improving people's understanding of the link between their alcohol consumption and their health;

the second phase of the campaign included targeting people who were trying to conceive and pregnant women. The communications messages "Did you know that drinking alcohol whilst pregnant can damage your unborn baby?" and "Did you know that it's safer to avoid alcohol if you are trying to get pregnant?" were delivered in press adverts; and

in addition, a pregnancy and alcohol booklet was produced in September 2008 for stakeholders such as PCTs, local councils and charities to use as support materials. The booklet offered information about drinking when you're trying to conceive, during pregnancy, and while breastfeeding, how alcohol affects your unborn baby, and the advice on drinking during pregnancy.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections *(a)* in each region in each year since 1997-98 and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available. [272788]

Dawn Primarolo: We are unable to provide a breakdown by primary care trust of residence due to the sensitivity of the data. The count of admissions to hospital for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) broken down by strategic health authority of residence for 1997-98 to 2007-08 is provided in the following table. These data only include admissions to hospital and do not include attendances at genito-urinary medicine clinics, where the majority of STIs are detected and treated.

Number of admissions to hospital for sexually transmitted infections broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence for 1997-98 to 2007-08, activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Current strategic HA of residence	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
	Total	2,649	2,620	2,818	2,678	2,741	2,744	2,840	3,193	3,447	3,297	3,527
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	—	—	104	77	65	64	64	72	53	79	90
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	—	—	59	61	54	73	55	68	71	60	50
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	—	—	58	55	89	35	36	36	39	63	47
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	—	—	107	95	105	96	57	63	72	72	121
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	—	—	120	79	97	88	48	61	73	60	59
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	—	—	112	108	146	58	12	132	190	134	35
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	—	—	111	125	105	115	73	101	82	88	84
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	—	—	71	74	62	63	64	45	49	58	70
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	—	—	113	100	86	86	92	121	128	158	131
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	—	—	76	73	73	91	74	50	58	122	117
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	—	—	56	90	105	67	88	89	115	135	95
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	—	—	122	123	82	76	117	169	161	149	224
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	—	—	130	137	118	118	104	128	174	214	294
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	—	—	158	177	166	128	173	301	414	311	342
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	—	—	109	89	146	99	127	134	119	78	79
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	—	—	98	68	51	58	51	41	36	23	23
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	—	—	40	33	55	59	70	63	78	75	57
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	—	—	53	58	40	35	45	90	122	93	117
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	—	—	121	168	129	115	114	114	98	117	124
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	—	—	83	82	96	87	101	62	81	30	36
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	—	—	161	95	122	126	125	90	79	16	6
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	—	—	31	36	32	34	27	42	41	41	22
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	—	—	82	73	85	61	46	58	55	12	3
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	—	—	119	100	118	143	124	106	114	81	75
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	—	—	115	100	51	21	35	21	42	45	34
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	—	—	53	55	57	38	33	20	18	35	33
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA	—	—	103	90	79	117	106	128	94	69	92

Number of admissions to hospital for sexually transmitted infections broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence for 1997-98 to 2007-08, activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Current strategic HA of residence	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	—	—	65	54	41	54	55	77	82	49	63
Q30	North East SHA	167	160	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	North West SHA	377	367	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	265	265	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands SHA	243	169	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands SHA	194	204	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q35	East of England SHA	200	190	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q36	London SHA	492	458	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q37	South East Coast SHA	174	141	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q38	South Central SHA	89	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q39	South West SHA	245	218	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other and Unknown SHAs	203	363	188	203	286	539	724	711	709	850	1,004

Notes:
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
The ICD-10 codes used to identify sexually transmitted infections are as follows:
A50: Congenital syphilis
A51: Early syphilis
A52: Late syphilis
A53: Other and unspecified syphilis
A54: Gonococcal infection
A55: Chlamydial lymphogranuloma (venereum)
A56: Other sexually transmitted chlamydial diseases
A57: Chancroid
A58: Granuloma inguinale
A59: Trichomoniasis
A60: Anogenital herpesviral (herpes simplex) infection
A63: Other predominantly sexually transmitted diseases, not elsewhere classified
A64: Unspecified sexually transmitted disease
It should be noted that there are other diagnoses that can be transmitted sexually but are not limited to sexually transmission—they have been excluded from this response.
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
PCT/SHA data quality
PCT and SHA data were added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of general practitioner (GP) practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Swine Flu

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will put in place arrangements for the decontamination of passenger airplanes between flights in cases where there is a risk of swine influenza infection. [272353]

Dawn Primarolo: Airlines have standard procedures for decontaminating aircraft where a passenger exhibits symptoms suggestive of an infectious disease. This is in accordance with normal International Air Transport Association guidance. In light of the recent outbreak of swine flu, the Health Protection Agency has issued Interim guidance reminding airlines of the procedures that should be followed. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 391W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional annual value of such provision is. [271923]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department provides office space and facilities for the Public and Commercial Services Union and for members of the departmental trade union side in London and Leeds.

In London, space is provided in Skipton house with a total notional cost of £20,620 per annum. In Leeds, space is provided in Quarry house with a total notional cost of £17,109 per annum.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Car Scrappage Scheme

7. **Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on plans for the introduction of the car scrappage scheme. [273166]

14. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the vehicle scrappage scheme to come into operation. [273175]

Ian Pearson: The scrappage scheme announced in the Budget will be operational from 18 May 2009.

Consumer Rights

9. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps he has taken to strengthen consumer rights. [273169]

Mr. Thomas: Over recent months the Government have developed further our work tackling illegal money lending and improving access to debt advice and affordable credit.

We have ensured that credit card companies adopt a breathing space for consumers who are in debt, and have announced that we will take action to outlaw unsolicited credit card cheques.

We launched Consumer Focus, the new advocacy body to ensure a stronger voice for consumers and have introduced new protections against rogue traders who sell to consumers on the doorstep.

Post Bank

11. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on proposals for a Post Bank. [273172]

Mr. McFadden: In addition to representations from hon. Members, my right hon. Friend has recently received representations from the "Post Bank Collection" and the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters about the creation of a Post Bank.

WTO Negotiations: Doha

12. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of progress on the Doha round of World Trade Organisation negotiations; and if he will make a statement. [273173]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier today in the Chamber in response to a question from the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry).

Small Business: Credit

13. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from small businesses on the availability to them of credit. [273174]

Ian Pearson: BERR is in regular contact with small business representative organisations and with small businesses themselves on many issues, including access to credit.

Trade Credit Insurance Scheme

15. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what eligibility criteria will apply to assistance under his Department's trade credit insurance scheme; and if he will make a statement. [273177]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the Member for Glenrothes (Lindsay Roy).

Unscrupulous Lenders

16. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking against unscrupulous lenders; and if he will make a statement. [273178]

Mr. Thomas: We are funding a specialist team in every region of England, Wales and Scotland to help crack down on illegal money lending and in March we launched a national hotline and an awareness campaign, to warn consumers against the dangers of illegal lending.

Regulatory Budgets

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress the Government have made in their consultation on introducing a system of regulatory budgets. [273159]

Mr. McFadden: As set out in the statement to the House on 2 April, the Government have decided not to implement a system of regulatory budgets at this stage. Rather we will undertake a programme of better regulation measures tailored to the present exceptional economic circumstances.

Business Support

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps regional development agencies are taking to support small and medium-sized businesses during the recession; and if he will make a statement. [273168]

Mr. McFadden: Strong RDAs are crucial in the current economic climate to support businesses through these challenging times and bring forward major capital investment schemes to act as an economic stimulus.

RDA support for small and medium-sized businesses during the recession includes: the provision of free 'Health Checks' for business from Business Links; delivery of the Government's streamlined business support portfolio Solutions for Business; and Regional Transition Loan Funds.

Government Industrial Strategy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has for the implementation of the Government's new industrial strategy. [273171]

Ian Pearson: 'New Industry, New Jobs' was published on 20 April. Implementation has already started across Government and a plan of action will be published shortly.

Ammunition: Exports

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* guidelines and *(b)* restrictions apply to the export of white phosphorus munitions. [272317]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* All munitions are strategically controlled Military List goods and as such cannot be exported without a license.

All applications for export licences are rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and any other relevant announced policies. There are no specific guidelines on the export of white phosphorous munitions but assessments of applications take account of all available information at the time of the application, including information about the situation in the receiving country and licences will not be issued if the proposed exports would be inconsistent with any of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. As part of the assessment process consideration is given to the past behaviour of end users.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* advice and *(b)* financial assistance his Department provides to (i) small, (ii) medium-sized and (iii) large companies; how many companies in each category in each region sought (A) advice and (B) assistance from his Department in the last 12 months; how many officials in each pay band in his Department are engaged in the provision of advice to businesses; how much his Department spent on providing (1) advice and (2) financial assistance to companies during the last year; and if he will make a statement. [256577]

Ian Pearson: This Department delivers advice and access to business support primarily through the national Business Link service. The regional development agencies manage Business Link advisory services, which are delivered locally throughout England by external providers. For further information see

www.businesslink.gov.uk

In the 12 months ending December 2008, advisers helped over 942,000 businesses and the website attracted 9.8 million visitors.

In addition to Business Link, this Department sponsors the work of UK Trade and Investment and the Manufacturing Advisory Service. Our annual report describes these and the other forms of business support provided by this Department more fully. The RDAs fund the Business Link service from monies provided by this and other Departments. In 2008-09, we estimated that the value of Business Link contracts in the regions amounted to approximately £190 million.

The remaining information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have received assistance from the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme; and how much funding has been committed to date. [259007]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* Since its launch on 14 January, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has nearly £300 million of eligible applications from over 2,600 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses in Braintree have received assistance from the *(a)* Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, *(b)* Capital for Enterprise Fund and *(c)* Working Capital Guarantee Scheme; and how much funding has been committed to businesses in Braintree under each scheme. [259009]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* The Enterprise Finance Guarantee, Capital for Enterprise Fund and the Working Capital Scheme were announced under the Real Help with Finance package on 14 January.

Since its launch on 14 January, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has nearly £300 million of eligible applications from over 2,600 firms that have been granted, or are being processed or assessed.

With respect to the £75 million Capital for Enterprise equity scheme, the appointed fund managers are in discussions and conducting due diligence on companies from whom they have received serious proposals seeking a total of around £60 million of investments

The Working Capital Scheme is not available directly to businesses. The scheme enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of prospects for the manufacturing industry in the next three years. [273225]

Ian Pearson: The Manufacturing Strategy launched in September 2008 sets out clearly the importance of manufacturing to the UK economy. It provides a powerful vision for how the UK can take advantage of global trends and brings together £150 million of support to seize new opportunities.

The Government are also taking steps to help manufacturers through the current economic downturn by boosting capital and liquidity in the market, and ensuring that the policies within the Manufacturing Strategy work to bolster UK manufacturing and help businesses to prepare for the upturn when it comes.

In April, the Government published "New Industry, New Jobs", which identifies key areas where Government action can speed recovery through investing in growth and building manufacturing and services essential to ensure business can compete successfully in future markets.

Motor Vehicles

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to support research and development of environmentally-friendly car technologies within the automotive sector. [271352]

Ian Pearson: BERR has been working with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), other Government Departments (including the Department for Transport and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills) and other organisations to further the development of low carbon technologies for the automotive sector, primarily through the TSB's Low Carbon Vehicle Innovation Platform. Details of Government's vision for the development of ultra-low carbon vehicles in the UK were announced on 16 April 2009. BERR has also supported the industry-led New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team (which published its report on 6 May) articulating a strategic vision for low carbon cars in the UK. In addition, the £2.3 billion Automotive Assistance Programme has been designed to help support the development of green technologies.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Byers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent assessment is of the progress made by the European Investment Bank to *(a)* Nissan and *(b)* Jaguar Land Rover in agreeing terms for financial assistance; on what date he estimates the financial assistance will be made available; and if he will make a statement. [272261]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The European Investment Bank announced on 7 April that its Board had approved in principle a loan of €400 million to Nissan to support fuel efficiency projects in the UK and Spain, and a loan of €360 million to Jaguar Land Rover to support low carbon projects in the UK. Both companies are now engaged in separate discussions with the EIB to agree terms for the respective loans.

John Hemming: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will seek to provide interim funding of £4 million for LDV to facilitate the purchase of the business and to enable it to continue to trade. [272841]

Ian Pearson: The government have agreed to make available a one-off £5 million bridging loan facility to prevent LDV going into administration, and to facilitate the purchase of the company by Weststar of Malaysia. Weststar's proposed purchase of LDV offers the only credible chance of keeping this manufacturing plant in the UK, sustaining UK jobs and a platform for future model development.

New Businesses

Joan Ryan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department is providing for new business start-ups in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [260160]

Ian Pearson: Advice and support for new business start ups in England is provided through the Business Link network as contracted by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and funded by this Department. This includes free advice and information on understanding business finance. More intensive support, including mentoring or one-to-one coaching, is available for those targeted by RDAs as either being from underrepresented groups or as having high-growth potential. The businesslink.gov.uk website provides a wide range of advice and support tools for new business start ups.

Post Offices

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for the development of the Post Office network. [273160]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. member to the answer given earlier today to the hon. Member for Argyll and Bute (Mr. Reid).

Real Help with Finance Package

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of each of the three funds announced under the Real Help with Finance Package have been allocated to Northern Ireland; and when it is expected that funding under the package will be made available to Northern Ireland businesses. [260312]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* The three funds announced under the Real Help with Finance package on 14 January are the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, the Capital for Enterprise Fund and the Working Capital Scheme.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee and Capital for Enterprise Funds are UK-wide schemes and are open to all eligible UK businesses, including those in Northern Ireland. Since its launch on 14 January, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has nearly £300 million of eligible applications from over 2,600 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed.

The Working Capital Schemes supports lenders by providing a guarantee on portfolios of lending to business and is open to all UK banks.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Agriculture

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of land in *(a)* the Turks and Caicos Islands and *(b)* the Cayman Islands was used for crop or livestock production in each of the last five years. [272614]

Gillian Merron: There is no significant or regular crop or livestock production in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The department of agriculture in the Cayman Islands does not have an agricultural land use database but has estimated that the percentage of land used for crop and/or livestock production in the Cayman Islands is 6 per cent.

British Overseas Territories: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding *(a)* Montserrat, *(b)* Bermuda and *(c)* the British Virgin Islands has received from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme for environmental management. [272605]

Gillian Merron: The Overseas Territories Environment Programme is jointly funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development for environmental management projects. Funding to date has been £257,413 for projects in Montserrat, £324,334 for projects in Bermuda and £65,058 for projects in the British Virgin Islands.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many species endemic to *(a)* South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands and *(b)* Anguilla are on the endangered species list. [272609]

Gillian Merron: According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red list of threatened species, none of the species endemic to either South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands or Anguilla are thought to be endangered.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK Overseas Territories have coral reefs; and whether an assessment has been made of the condition of such reefs in the last 10 years. [272613]

Gillian Merron: The British Overseas Territories with coral reefs are: the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Bermuda, Pitcairn Islands, the British Indian Ocean Territory and Montserrat. With the exception of Pitcairn Islands and Montserrat, all have assessed the condition of their reefs within the last 10 years.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether strategies are in place to deal with the risks of climate change and rising sea levels in low-lying UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean. [272615]

Gillian Merron: The Caribbean British Overseas Territories are Anguilla, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Anguilla is addressing climate change through a sustainable energy strategy. Montserrat has established a Climate and Volcano Institute to address the impact of the active Soufriere volcano on climate change in the region. The British Virgin Islands are undergoing a year-long assessment prior to identifying climate change strategies. The Cayman Islands have set up a climate change adaptation working group. The Turks and Caicos Islands have set up a climate change group.

The British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean are participating in a Department for International Development funded project to enhance capacity for adaptation to climate change.

British Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on conservation measures in British Overseas Territories in each of the last five years; and what funding allocation has been made to such measures in 2009-10. [271990]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has contributed £500,000 per annum every year for the last five years to the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, which supports conservation measures in the British Overseas Territories. The same amount has been allocated for 2009-10.

British Overseas Territories: Population

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the population of *(a)* the Turks and Caicos Islands and *(b)* the Cayman Islands was in each year since 2000. [272606]

Gillian Merron: The statistical office of the department for economic planning and statistics in the Turks and Caicos Islands has provided the following estimated figures relating to the population of the Turks and Caicos Islands in each year since 2000.

	Estimated figure
2000	18,491
2001	19,886
2002	20,900
2003	25,143
2004	27,496
2005	30,602
2006	33,202
2007	34,862
2008	36,605

The economics and statistics office in the Cayman Islands has provided the following estimated figures relating to the population of the Cayman Islands in each year since 2000.

	Estimated figure
2000	40,800
2001	41,900
2002	43,004
2003	44,144
2004	36,340

	Estimated figure
2005	52,466
2006	53,172
2007	53,886

Figures for 2008 are not yet available.

The drop in population level in 2004 has been attributed to the temporary relocation of residents abroad in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. The increase in population in 2005 has been attributed to the return of these residents, and the increase in the labour force needed for the reconstruction of the country.

British Overseas Territories: Prisoners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people have been held in prisons in *(a)* Anguilla and *(b)* Gibraltar since 2005. [272618]

Gillian Merron: We understand that 744 people were held in prison in Anguilla between 1 January 2005 and 29 April 2009 inclusive.

As regards Gibraltar, in 2005 there were 192 receptions of prisoners, the average daily population was 26.

In 2006, there were 202 receptions of prisoners, the average daily population was 34.

Under the 2006 constitution, the administration of the prison in Gibraltar, except as it affects the Governor's responsibility for upholding internal security, is a matter for the Government of Gibraltar. Figures for 2007 onwards are therefore not held by the Government.

British Overseas Territories: Renewable Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK Crown Dependencies have trialled electricity generation through the use of *(a)* wind turbines, *(b)* solar power and *(c)* tidal or hydro-electric power. [272634]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Isle of Man has a small hydro generation facility which supplies about 1 per cent. of island electricity demand. Feasibility work is being carried out on larger scale renewable schemes.

Jersey and Guernsey Governments have not yet trialled electricity generation through wind, solar or hydro power. However, Jersey and Guernsey are in the process of establishing tidal energy commissions. Alderney has already established such a commission to oversee the regulation of companies which wish to run tidal energy schemes.

Democratic Republic of Congo: War Crimes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 620W, on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): war crimes, what further reports he has received on allegations that Bosco Ntaganda is playing a leading role in military operations in the DRC; and if he will direct his officials to make further high level representations to the Congolese government on the arrest of Bosco Ntaganda. [272737]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 6 May 2009]:* It is unclear from reports we have received whether Bosco Ntaganda has taken a role in planning military operations against the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Our embassy in Kinshasa is seeking to establish the facts. We understand that the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in the DRC has ordered his officials not to attend meetings at which Bosco may be present. Our ambassador in Kinshasa raised the question of Bosco's position in meetings with the DRC Foreign Minister and the commander of the UN peacekeeping force on 20 April 2009. He has sought reassurances that Bosco will be handed over to the International Criminal Court.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272144]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has three buildings for which inspections of air conditioning systems need to be carried out in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2007/991). No inspections have been carried out to date. The surveys on all three are due to be completed by 15 May 2009

The FCO will place in the Library of the House, a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by the FCO and its agencies, once received.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of its suppliers his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in each of the last five months. [272250]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has paid the following percentage of valid invoices received from UK suppliers within eight days of receipt in the last five months. In normal circumstances it will take two further days for a payment to reach the suppliers' bank accounts.

	Percentage
November	70.2
December	74.4
January	73.2
February	83.1
March	84.8

The FCO is committed to paying all of its suppliers as quickly as possible following receipt of a valid invoice, and is giving priority to increasing the percentage of invoices paid within eight working days.

Diplomatic Service: Recruitment

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what method it is intended to select the person to be appointed as the next Ambassador to the Holy See when the post is expected next to become vacant; and whether the post is to be advertised. [271790]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* Our current ambassador to the Holy See is due to leave the post in summer 2010. Leaving dates in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are to some extent flexible to allow the FCO to deploy its resources most effectively, and it is therefore possible that this timing will change. We will select a replacement for our current ambassador by advertising within the FCO and more widely across other Whitehall Departments, as is standard with senior posts.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the post of Ambassador to South Africa was *(a)* advertised and *(b)* trawled before the recent appointment of a successor to the right hon. Paul Boateng. [271791]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* The vacancy for the post of our high commissioner in Pretoria was advertised within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the wider civil service at the end of October 2008. An appointment has been made without the need for the position to be trawled. Our high commissioner-designate is expected to take up their post in August 2010.

Ghana: Military Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1307W, on Africa: conflict prevention, how many UK staff or personnel were seconded to the British Military Assistance Training Team in Ghana in each year since 2000; what the role of the Training Team has been; what activities it has undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [270460]

David Miliband: The British Military Advisory and Training Team-West Africa (BMATT-WA) is funded through the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme, managed tri-departmentally by the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development. From 2000-02 there were five posts for UK military personnel and from 2003 to date there have been seven posts. In addition, a UK civilian post has been in existence since May 2003. The team will be withdrawn by September 2009.

The role of BMATT-WA, based in Ghana, has been to support two institutions—the Ghana armed forces command and staff college and the Kofi Annan international peace training centre (KAIPTC).

In the staff college, the team primarily provided training advice and assistance to the senior division. This support included delivering lectures, writing staff and tactical exercises, and facilitating visiting lecturers for the delivery of specialist defence modules. The three members of BMATT-WA embedded within the KAIPTC are working as executive director, resource director and staff officer for training development. The centre offers Ghanaian, regional and international participants the opportunity to examine specific peace operations issues at the operational level and to update and share their knowledge of the latest practices through conferences, discussions, lectures and computer assisted training exercises.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which states have reported to the UN Sanctions Committee impediments under their domestic law to the implementation of the assets freeze on designated persons and entities in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 of 2006, 1747 of 2007 and 1803 of 2008; and whether the UK has offered assistance to any such state in this regard. [270991]

David Miliband: Member states' reports affirming their implementation of the measures contained in UN Security Council resolutions 1737 of 2006, 1747 of 2007 and 1803 of 2008 are publicly available online at:

http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1737/memberstatesreports.shtml

The 1737 Iran Sanctions Committee has never found it necessary to investigate any impediments under any member state's domestic law concerning implementation of the assets freezes as a result of these reports.

The UK works with other states to provide assistance on the implementation of asset freezes under the UN sanctions against Iran through bilateral discussions and multilateral groups, such as the EU and the Financial Action Task Force.

Kenya: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many piracy suspects have been transferred to Kenyan custody under *(a)* the EU/Kenya exchange of letters of 6 March 2009 for the transfer of persons suspected of committing acts of piracy and *(b)* the December 2008 memorandum of understanding between the UK and Kenya. [272920]

David Miliband: Twenty seven piracy suspects have been transferred to Kenyan custody under the EU/Kenya exchange of letters (sixteen by Germany and eleven by France). No piracy suspects have been transferred to Kenyan custody under the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the UK and Kenya. The transfer of eight piracy suspects to Kenyan jurisdiction by the Royal Navy in November 2008 was done under an exchange of letters that preceded the MoU of December 2008.

Montserrat: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much financial aid has been provided to Montserrat by the UK since 1995. [272616]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

Full details of the UK development expenditure in Montserrat are contained in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is available from the Library and online at www.dfid.gov.uk. Relevant figures are reproduced in the table.

Bilateral UK gross public expenditure on development in Montserrat

£000

	DFID budgetary aid	*DFID other financial aid*	*DFID technical assistance*	*Other DFID bilateral aid*	*DFID humanitarian assistance*	*Aid from other UK official sources*	*Total bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX)*
1995-96	750	1,883	1,353	23	2,446	14	6,469
1996-97	5,758	1,456	1,261	71	5,754	—	14,301
1997-98	9,850	3,190	8,994	3,686	12,043	1	37,764
1998-99	8,340	54	4,638	10,052	7,700	—	30,834
1999-2000	8,232	509	4,500	4,143	4,868	—	22,273
2000-01	5,740	1	3,643	5,550	4,663	—	19,597
2001-02	7,605	5,644	3,955	3,998	1,279	—	22,481
2002-03	11,265	7,476	2,285	1,494	830	—	23,350
2003-04	12,451	8,925	2,510	394	477	—	24,757
2004-05	10,133	2,400	1,402	66	144	—	14,151
2005-06	10,367	842	1,388	20	—	—	12,617
2006-07	11,350	3,031	1,175	—	—	—	15,556
2007-08	11,725	3,723	1,693	20	3	131	17,295

Rwanda: Extradition

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had discussions with the Rwandan government on steps to be taken following the judgment of the divisional court of 8 April 2009 on the extradition of four men to Rwanda. [271801]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* We are discussing with the Government of Rwanda how we might best proceed in light of the High Court judgment of 8 April 2009, on the extradition of four men to Rwanda. We will continue to provide technical advice and support to the Rwandan justice sector. The Government and Parliament of Rwanda are pressing ahead with various reforms to this sector, in discussion with the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 634W, on trade unions, which trade unions are recognised by his Department's agencies. [271915]

Gillian Merron: The following three trade unions have agreed rights to represent employees in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's agencies:

Public and Commercial Services Union

The Diplomatic Service Association—the Diplomatic Service section of the FDA (formerly First Division Association)

Prospect—representing technical staff and other specialists.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the establishment of a contact group for Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [271590]

Gillian Merron: We want the new inclusive Government in Zimbabwe to work and to lead to a better future for all Zimbabweans, and we work to keep Zimbabwe high on the agenda at all appropriate international gatherings. There are already effective mechanisms for international discussion and co-ordination on Zimbabwe without the need to establish a formal contact group. An example of this co-ordination is the 20 March 2009 meeting in Washington of all donors, which reconfirmed international willingness to support recovery in Zimbabwe when there is evidence of a genuine commitment by the new Government to political and economic reform.

We also discuss the situation regularly with EU and other partners, including members of the Southern Africa development community. As input to these various discussions, our ambassador in Harare ensures with his colleagues that there is effective monitoring of the political situation. Humanitarian and recovery issues are also monitored and co-ordinated on the ground in Harare with regular meetings of like-minded donors.

It is encouraging that the inclusive Government have also begun their own direct dialogue with major international partners such as the EU and the International Monetary Fund. In the meantime, the international community continues to make a major contribution to supporting the humanitarian welfare of the Zimbabwean people.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273937]

Andy Burnham: None.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [273885]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money.

The information requested by the hon. Member is not readily available from the Department's accounting system. To provide the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Football: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects have received more than £250,000 in funding allocated through the Football Foundation since 2000. [273232]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Football Foundation advise that 416 projects have received more than £250,000 from them since 2000.

22 community projects (schemes using football/sporting activity to achieve wider social outcomes) have been awarded a grant over £250,000.

394 facility projects (capital funding to build football and multi-sport facilities) have been awarded a grant over £250,000.

Gambling Commission

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by the Gambling Commission on *(a)* press officers, *(b)* media monitoring, *(c)* consultants and *(d)* events in each of the last three years. [272322]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 May 2009]*: The following table shows the amount (to the nearest pound) spent on each named activity for the last three financial years.

£

	Press officers[1]	*Media monitoring*	*Consultants*[2]	*Events*[3]
2006-07	40,212	10,700	55,477	4,341
2007-08	40,375	36,608	59,714	10,669
2008-09	52,394	35,539	83,496	6,654

[1] Including pension and national insurance costs.
[2] Consultants contracted for work involving communications and corporate affairs.
[3] Direct costs and excludes consultation events.

Government Art Collection

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on *(a)* purchasing and *(b)* commissioning items for the Government art collection in each of the last 10 years. [271211]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 27 April 2009]*: The information is as follows.

Works acquired with Government art collection funds:

£

	Purchases	*Commissions*
1999-2000	189,992	0
2000-01	146,438	0
2001-02	156,957	0
2002-03	233,565	7,403
2003-04	225,101	0
2004-05	294,624	0
2005-06	211,698	8,629
2006-07	228,457	0
2007-08	308,338	0
2008-09	250,348	0

Works included on the Government art collection inventory, acquired using funds from other sources (other Government Departments, DCMS central funds, PFI funds):

£

	Purchases	*Commissions*
1999-2000	22,878	66,500
2000-01	2,331	299,250
2001-02	6,767	0
2002-03	5,348	20,000
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	0	1,236,775
2005-06	31,190	149,000
2006-07	450	38,966
2007-08	21,738	84,466
2008-09	153,708	160,202

Licensed Premises

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to establish a national database of designated premises supervisors. [272819]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A convincing business case is required before committing public expenditure to establishing national databases. The case for establishing a national database for personal licence holders, some of whom would be designated premises supervisors, was examined by independent consultants and they did not find that a compelling case existed. In the absence of any new evidence to strengthen the case we have no current plans to introduce a database but we will keep the matter under review. The current arrangements were designed to function effectively with or without an electronic database.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many recommendations made by English Heritage in respect of the listing of buildings were rejected by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [273281]

Barbara Follett: No central record is maintained, either by the Department or English Heritage, to show the number of occasions on which advice provided by English Heritage on listing applications is rejected. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding allocated by each

of the National Lottery distributors was channelled through local authorities in each of the last five years. [273234]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Office of Communications: Complaints

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints in each category have been received by the Office of Communications in each year since its establishment. [273476]

Andy Burnham: The matters raised are the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the funds raised by Team 2012 will be allocated to each sporting discipline. [272768]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 6 May 2009]:* Money received by UK Sport from Team 2012 will be allocated and distributed to Olympic and Paralympic sports according to their 'no compromise' investment strategy and against the 10 investment principles published in June 2008, with the aim of delivering the overall targets for London 2012 of Top 4 in the Olympics and 2nd in the Paralympics with more medals won in more sports.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support is available for sportsmen and women training to participate in the London 2012 Olympics in disciplines which fall outside UK Sport's funding envelope to meet *(a)* medical insurance costs and *(b)* other essential costs. [272769]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 6 May 2009]:* The Olympic Sports that do not receive public funding from UK Sport are football and tennis.

The remaining Olympic and Paralympic sports are benefiting from record public funding of £304 million in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics and it is for the national governing bodies of these sports to determine how to allocate this funding.

In line with UK Sport's investment principles, there are three tiers of funded sports—'Podium', 'Emerging' and 'Basic'. Those sports on 'Podium' and 'Emerging' levels of funding are in receipt of Athlete Medical Scheme cover for named athletes on the World Class Programme.

'Basic' level funding covers core staff costs and basic preparation. The eight Olympic sports funded at this level can opt to prioritise access to the Athlete Medical Scheme within their funding.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects have received more than £250,000 in funding allocated through the Community Club Development Programme since 2003. [273233]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that the following projects have received more than £250,000 in funding through the Community Club Development Programme since 2003:

Financial year	*Recipient*	*Project description*	*Total (£)*
2004-05	England and Wales Cricket Board	CCDP—Band A NGB Allocation	1,901,064
	Lawn Tennis Association	Band A NGB—Allocation	1,714,395
	Medway Badminton Association	Modernisation of Facility	333,775
	Rugby Football Union	CCDP Band A NGB Allocation	6,151,702
	The Football Foundation	CCDP Band A NGB Allocation	2,141,425
2005-06	England and Wales Cricket Board	CCDP—Band A NGB Allocation	4,156,127
	Heathrow Gymnastic Club	Gymnastic Facility	270,566
	Hounslow Badminton Association	Modernisation of Facilities	472,775
	Kendal Judo Club	New Two Mat Area	266,839
	Lawn Tennis Association	Band A NGB—Allocation	4,270,032
	North Lincolnshire Council	Track Upgrade	276,137
	Rugby Football Union	CCDP Band A NGB Allocation	2,064,564
	SKK Judo Club	New Two Mat Facility	280,400
	The Football Foundation	CCDP Band A NGB Allocation	4,517,769
2006-07	Benfield School	Benfield School Refurbishment	264,482
	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Multi Use STP	449,908
	Blue Flames Sports Club	3 Category Three Netball court	271,715
	Copeland Stadium	Regional Centre	674,406
	Cottingham Tigers ARLFC	Regional Centre Improvements	314,787
	Dartford Borough Council	New Two Mat Judo Facility	255,600

Financial year	*Recipient*	*Project description*	*Total (£)*
	Draycott and Long Eaton Table Tennis Club	Modernisation of building	396,652
	Ellenborough Table Tennis Club	New Hall and Modernisation	952,555
	England and Wales Cricket Board	CCDP—Band A NGB Allocation	3,138,122
	Football Foundation	CCDP Band A NGB Allocation	2,993,949
	Highworth Recreation Centre Trust	Pool Roofing Project	367,800
	Lawn Tennis Association	Band A NGB—Allocation	3,419,915
	Middlesbrough Borough Council	Upgrade and Modernisation	500,000
	Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs on behalf of Northamptonshire Trampoline Gymnastics Academy	Extension to Building	427,462
	Northamptonshire County Council on behalf of Northants Basketball Club	Two Court New Build Hall	600,000
	Redbridge Judo Club	New Build Dojo	928,687
	Rugby Football Union	CCDP Band A NGB Allocation	2,254,682
	SKK Judo Club	New Two Mat Facility	404,583
	Swindon Borough Council	Dorcan Recreation Complex	413,000
	Thatto Heath ARLFC	New Clubhouse	551,812
	Wakefield MB Council	Thornes Park Stadium Extension	374,192
	Weavers School on behalf of Westfield Table Tennis Club	New build table tennis hall	300,000
	Amateur Boxing Association	Ring/Practice Equipment	718,071
2007-08	Canoe Club (Freehold) Ltd.	Community Club Development Programme	300,000
	CCDP Deferred Grants	Community Club Development Programme	7,701,677
	East Grinstead Sports Club	Community Club Development Programme	263,896
	East Staffs Gymnastics Club	Community Club Development Programme	250,000
	England and Wales Cricket Board	CCDP—Band A NGB Allocation	4,755,551
	Hull Badminton Centre	Refurbishment of 4 Court Hall	453,350
	Jesse Boot Community Trust	Mini Basketball Hall	768,701
	Lawn Tennis Association	Band A NGB—Allocation	4,683,996
	Leicester City Council on Behalf of Hinckley Gymnastics Club	New Build Gymnastics Facility	500,000
	Littlehampton Badminton	Renovation of Badminton Hall	405,846
	Pontefract Squash and Leisure Club	Community Club Development Programme	350,000
	Rugby Football Union	CCDP Band A NGB Allocation	4,637,975
	Solihull Cycling Club	Community Club Development Programme	400,000
	St. Neots Table Tennis Club	Upgrade existing facility	338,170
	The Football Foundation	CCDP Band A NGB Allocation	4,750,000
	West Herts Warriors	Community Club Development Programme	429,454
Grand total			80,488,575

HOME DEPARTMENT

Community Relations: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the planning guidance, Safer places: a counter-terrorism supplement, whether the £5 million of funding is *(a)* additional funding, *(b)* to be delivered in one year and *(c)* available to local planning authorities and other bodies. [272433]

Mr. Coaker: The extra £5 million funding comes from the Home Office budget for the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT). It was allocated as part of the budget setting round for 2009-10. The funding will support regional and local delivery of work to improve the protection of crowded places as set out in the Government's consultation document "Working Together to Protect Crowded Places".

The Government will allocate this funding based on priorities identified by local partnerships and risk assessments carried out by counter-terrorism security advisers (CTSAs).

Departmental Databases

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects automated supply of crime and detection data from existing police force management systems via her Department's data hub to be fully operational. [273018]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office data hub will receive crime, detections and police personnel data from police forces in England and Wales. The system is currently being tested and test data extracts have now been received from 28 forces. It is planned that the system will be fully operational by the end of the financial year 2010-11.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people will be employed in the Confidential Intelligence Unit in each of the next three years; what budget has been established for the Unit in each such years; and if she will make a statement. [271988]

Jacqui Smith: There is no organisation called the Confidential Intelligence Unit, nor are there any plans to set one up.

Police: Accountability

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England and Wales have implemented the Justice Seen, Justice Done programme. [273021]

Jacqui Smith: The Justice Seen, Justice Done programme is about raising public awareness and knowledge of the services and actions the public should expect from the police and other agencies—especially the commitments set out in the Policing Pledge.

All 43 forces in England and Wales have been involved in the Justice Seen, Justice Done programme through their local promotion of the Police Pledge.

Police: Powers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for the completion of the review of the use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [273015]

Jacqui Smith: The Government launched a three month consultation period on 17 April. Once we have had an opportunity to consider the responses to the consultation we will bring Consolidating Orders before Parliament at the earliest opportunity. The orders will set out which authorising officers in which public authorities may authorise specific covert investigatory techniques and for what purpose.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to *(a)* finalise and *(b)* implement the single top-down public confidence measure for police forces; and whether a method for measurement of the indicator has been agreed. [273031]

Jacqui Smith: Following a period of consultation with all police forces and authorities, the single top-down public confidence target was announced on 5 March 2009. Forces and authorities have until the end of March 2012 to reach their individual targets, which when achieved will mean that, nationally, 60 per cent. of the public agree that the police and their partners are dealing with the crime and antisocial behaviour issues that matter locally.

The target will be measured using the British Crime Survey question which asks whether respondents agree that:

"the police and local councils are dealing with the antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter in [their local] area".

As a joint measure it deliberately promotes partnership working between the police and councils as that is what is needed to tackle local problems.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on *(a)* the Policing Objective Analysis model and *(b)* the development of force value for money profiles to provide improved data on the individual component costs of policing functions; and what timetable has been set for their completion. [273033]

Jacqui Smith: The Association of Chief Police Officers have developed the Policing Objective Analysis model and obtained agreement with forces and the Association of Police Authorities to commence its use from April 2009. The first year's results will be available at the end of the 2009-10 financial year.

Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) is taking forward the development of force Value for Money profiles. HMIC plan to make the first set of profiles available to police authorities and forces in autumn 2009.

Police: Surveillance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for the introduction of new codes of practice on the use of *(a)* covert human intelligence sources and *(b)* covert surveillance; and when she expects these codes of practice to enter into force. [273016]

Jacqui Smith: The Government launched a three month consultation period on 17 April. Once we have had an opportunity to consider the responses to the consultation we will bring an Order before Parliament to bring revised Codes of Practice into force at the earliest opportunity.

Police: Technology

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much ring-fenced funding each police force will receive for spending on new technology to fight crime in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding each force received in 2008-09. [269233]

Jacqui Smith: All police forces in England, Scotland and Wales have received ring-fenced funding under the mobile information programme. Funding has been awarded in two phases:

Phase one forces received £40,126,510 during 2008-09

Phase two forces received £14,646,348 during 2008-09 and are due to receive £14,890,846 during 2009-10

This brings the total funding to forces to £69,663,704. No forces will receive funding from the programme in 2010-11.

Table 1: Phase 1

	£
Bedfordshire	474,050
Cambridgeshire	790,000
Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (all eight Scottish Forces)	2,500,000

Table 1: Phase 1

	£
Yorkshire Region (Humberside, North Yorkshire, and West Yorkshire)	4,550,000
Staffordshire	3,762,800
Cheshire	2,064,000
Lancashire	3,360,000
Thames Valley	792,000
Essex	2,848,000
Hertfordshire	1,900,000
East Midlands Region (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, and Nottinghamshire)	8,318,875
British Transport Police	1,984,785
Kent	1,792,000
Metropolitan	5,000,000
Total	40,126,510

Details of phase two awards have not been released at this time, to ensure their commercial interests are not prejudiced as they negotiate contracts. The following forces received awards in phase 2.

Table 2: Phase 2

Association of Chief Police Officers—Terrorism and Allied Matters
City of London
Cleveland
Cumbria
Durham
Dyfed-Powys
Greater Manchester
Gwent
Hampshire
Merseyside
Norfolk
Northumbria
North Wales
Serious Organised Crime Agency
South Wales
South Yorkshire
Suffolk
Surrey
Sussex
West Mercia
West Midlands
Wiltshire

Terrorism

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1265W, on terrorism, what mechanism exists to measure progress on the proposal to establish a civilian force of 60,000 workers trained to deal with terrorism incidents. [270191]

Jacqui Smith: Local police counter-terrorism security advisers (CTSAs) submit regular returns to the police National Counter-Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO). The returns cover the activities CTSAs have undertaken, including Project Argus, in order to raise awareness of counter-terrorism in the business community and help them identify what they can do to help prevent and recover from a terrorist attack.

Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced record checks were processed by the Criminal Records Bureau in each police force area in 2008-09. [269698]

Mr. Malik: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued 3,208,966 enhanced disclosures and 359,990 standard disclosures between April 2008 and February 2009. In total, the CRB has issued 3,568,956 disclosures during this time.

The CRB cannot provide figures broken down by police force area. This is because standard disclosures are processed without any requirement for the police forces to conduct checks and several different police forces may be required to conduct checks in order to produce one enhanced disclosure.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Courts: Travel

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on courts: travel, when she plans to write to the hon. Member for Torbay. [272636]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

I replied to the hon. Member on 5 May 2009 and will arrange for a copy of my letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of allowing people receiving the basic state pension but who would be eligible for carer's allowance if they were under state pension age to receive full payment of both, in each of the next six years. [257198]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 696W.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1446-7W, on civil servants: pensions, whether the Pensions Regulator has issued guidance in relation to investing in with-profits pension funds. [270173]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The pensions regulator has not issued any guidance in relation to investing in with-profits pension funds.

Council Tax Benefit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the expenditure required from the public purse to raise personal allowances for council tax benefit to £193 per week for all households, excluding households with a couple where one or both are aged 65 years or over, in circumstances where the current level of capital allowance is *(a)* maintained and *(b)* abolished; and if he will estimate the number of households which would pay (i) a reduced rate of council tax and (ii) no council tax as a result of such a change. [273284]

Kitty Ussher: The table shows estimates of the cost and number of council tax benefit (CTB) beneficiaries; and the saving and number of losers, if the personal allowance in CTB was £193, for all households excluding households with a couple where one or both are aged 65 years or over in circumstances where:

Option A—Current level of capital allowance is maintained

Option B—Current level of capital allowance is abolished

Increase in applicable amount	*Option A*	*Option B*
Number of beneficiaries	1,910,000	2,140,000
Cost in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)	700	860
Number of losers	110,000	110,000
Saving in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)	-30	-30
Impact on annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)	670	830

Notes:
1. All figures are for Great Britain.
2. Beneficiaries and losers are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Costs and savings are rounded to the nearest £10 million. These estimates include both customers who gain/lose and those who become or lose entitlement to the benefit.
3. Each beneficiary represents a benefit unit, which can be a single claimant or a couple.
4. The impact is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model for 2008-09, using data from the 2006-07 Family Resources Survey up-rated to 2008-09 prices, benefit rates and earnings levels, and is calibrated to latest published forecasts and policies.
5. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only. No behavioural changes are assumed.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the effect on the public purse would be of increasing personal allowances for the purposes of calculating council tax benefits to £193 per week for *(a)* a single person aged 60 to 64 years, *(b)* a couple, one or both of whom is aged 60 to 65 years, *(c)* a single person aged under 25 years, *(d)* a single person aged 25 to 60 years and *(e)* a couple; and if he will estimate the effect such an increase would have on the number of council tax benefit claimants in each case. [268179]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* Estimates of the cost and number of council tax benefit (CTB) beneficiaries; and the saving and number of losers, if the personal allowance in CTB was £193, for the following groups:

Option 1—Single person aged 60 to 64 years;

Option 2—Couple, one or both of whom is aged 60 to 65 years;

Option 3—Single person aged under 25 years;

Option 4—Single person aged 25 to 60 years;

Option 5—Couple;

is in the following table.

Change of personal allowance in council tax benefit for some groups

Personal allowance in CTB (£193)	*Number of beneficiaries*	*Cost in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*	*Number of losers*	*Saving in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*	*Impact on annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*
Option 1	50,000	20	0	0	20
Option 2	160,000	*	0	0	*
Option 3	130,000	50	0	0	50
Option 4	990,000	370	20,000	-10	370
Option 5	580,000	140	90,000	-20	120

Notes:
1. All figures are for Great Britain.
2. '*' Less than £5 million.
3. Beneficiaries and losers are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Costs and savings are rounded to the nearest £10 million. These estimates include both customers who gain/lose and those who become entitled to, or lose entitlement to the benefit.
4. Each beneficiary represents a benefit unit, which can be a single claimant or a couple.
5. The impact is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model for2008-09, using data from the 2006-07 Family Resources Survey up-rated to 2008-09 prices, benefit rates and earnings levels, and is calibrated to latest published forecasts and policies.
6. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only. No behavioural changes are assumed.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many housing benefit recipients were social housing tenants in each of the last three years; and how many were *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord tenants; [272217]

(2) what percentage of housing benefit recipients were social housing tenants in each of the last three years; what proportion of those were *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord tenants. [272218]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following tables.

Number of housing benefit recipients who are social housing tenants in Great Britain—2005 to 2007

As at August each year	*Total housing benefit*	*All social housing tenants*	*Local authority tenants*	*Registered social landlord tenants*
2005	3,981,020	3,175,470	1,744,810	1,430,660
2006	4,024,280	3,163,280	1,683,830	1,479,450
2007	4,040,940	3,100,350	1,625,050	1,475,290

Proportion of housing benefit recipients who are social housing tenants in Great Britain—2005 to 2007

As at August each year	Percentage of housing benefit recipients who are social housing tenants	Percentage of social housing tenants who are local authority tenants	Percentage of social housing tenants who are registered social landlord tenants
2005	79.77	54.95	45.05
2006	78.60	53.23	46.77
2007	76.72	52.42	47.58

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Housing benefit figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2005 to August 2007

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the performance of Jobcentre Plus in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district against its employer outcome targets for (i) resolution, (ii) responsiveness and (iii) matching in (A) each year since the target was launched and (B) in each of the last 24 months. [264238]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Pension Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Financial Statement of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 249, on what date the capital limit for pension credit will increase; for which other *(a)* groups and *(b)* benefits the capital limits will be changed; and on what date these other changes will take effect. [271860]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 April 2009]:* The capital thresholds for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit for those who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit will be increased from £6,000 to £10,000 bringing these into line with the threshold for those living permanently in care homes. This change will take effect from paydays in the week commencing 2 November 2009.

The Government recognise the importance of supporting pensioners appropriately through the economic downturn. Increasing the capital threshold from £6,000 to £10,000 represents a generous increase in the thresholds and means that the proportion of pension credit recipients who will see their capital fully disregarded rises to 88 per cent. Half a million pensioners stand to gain from this change, with an average weekly gain of £4.

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on implementation of provisions relating to drug users in the Welfare Reform Bill. [270910]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* DWP Ministers discuss matters of joint interest with the Secretary of State for Health including the provisions in the Welfare Reform Bill.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 264368, on jobseeker's allowance and voluntary drug rehabilitation programmes, tabled by the hon. Member for Rochdale on 13 March 2009 for answer on 18 March. [268845]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 115W.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons the Cabinet met in Glasgow; and what the marginal cost of holding the meeting in Glasgow was. [270846]

The Prime Minister: The visit of the Cabinet to Glasgow on 16 April 2009 was one of several ministerial visits across the region; there was a public engagement event with around 230 local people and a formal Cabinet meeting. The cost of the public engagement event and the Cabinet meeting was approximately £54,300, excluding VAT. This figure includes the cost of hiring the venue, catering, associated security and delegate management. There are no separate figures for the Cabinet meeting. In addition, Departments and agencies will have incurred costs in terms of travel, staff time and other support. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force.

Canada: Afghanistan

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has had discussions with his Canadian counterpart on the continuing deployment of Canadian troops in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [272727]

The Prime Minister: We have continued to keep in close touch with our Canadian counterparts about our deployments, most recently as part of the NATO summit. I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS.

Chequers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed the issue of political websites with Mr. Derek Draper at Chequers on 16 November 2008. [272007]

The Prime Minister: No.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates *(a)* Mr. Charlie Whelan, *(b)* Mr. Andrew Dodgshon and *(c)* Mr. Derek Draper have attended Chequers as a guest of the Prime Minister since June 2007. [272008]

The Prime Minister: A list of guests entertained at Chequers is published on an annual basis. For information for 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 108-10WS. Information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in the usual manner.

Damian McBride

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to his letter of 13 April to the Cabinet Secretary on the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, from whom he received assurances that no Minister and no political adviser other than Mr. McBride had knowledge of or involvement in the emails sent by Mr. McBride regarding members of Her Majesty's Opposition and their families. [270768]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the letter from the Cabinet Secretary of 21 April 2009 to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude), a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many enhanced blast munitions have been fired in Afghanistan in each year since 2007. [271393]

Mr. Hutton: The only enhanced blast weapons used by UK forces in Afghanistan are variants of the AGM-114N Hellfire missile. This was released into service in spring 2008 and so there were none fired prior to May 2008; however, the number of enhanced blast munitions fired on operations in Afghanistan during 2008-09 is provided in the following table.

	Total fired
2008	20
2009	23

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK civilian contractors are currently stationed in Afghanistan. [273001]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As at 28 April 2009 there were some 300 UK civilian contractors stationed in Afghanistan supporting UK operations.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 20W, on armed forces: housing, if he will make an assessment of the reasons for the changes in numbers of houses at grade *(a)* one and *(b)* four for charge between 2005 and 2007. [264226]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Given the way Grade for Charge data is collated officials need to identify and analyse information to answer this question. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Willie Rennie:

Further to my answer of 17 March 2009 (Official Report, column 970W) I promised to write to the hon. Member when we had identified the reasons for the changes in numbers of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties at each Grade for Charge (GfC) in 2005 and 2007.

GfC is the methodology used to determine the level of charges for each SFA property and takes into account various factors including condition, size, environmental and locational factors.

Our analysis has shown that the changes in the worldwide SFA GfC totals between 2005 and 2007 were mainly due to changes in the Great Britain figures, which are provided in the table below.

GB SFA	*2005*	*2007*
Number of SFA at G1fC	13,774	9,907
Number of SFA at G2fC	18,779	19,029
Number of SFA at G3fC	13,569	15,437
Number of SFA at G4fC	4,065	5,538
Total	50,187	49,911

All SFA is subject to a rolling audit, where its GfC is assessed by Grading Boards at least once every four years. The reasons why properties have been re-graded are not centrally recorded and to provide this level of detail would require the collation and analysis of large amounts of data from across the Department, incurring disproportionate effort and cost. However a number of factors go into calculating grade for charge including: size, provision of Key Amenities condition and environmental factors like noise.

Standard for Condition (SfC) has been the Department's preferred measure for assessing a property's physical condition. For comparison purposes, GB SFA was at the following SfC in 2005 and 2007 are provided in the table below.

GB SFA	*2005*	*2007*
Number of SFA at S1fC	26,426	29,691
Number of SFA at S2fC	20,774	17,910
Number of SFA at S3fC	2,792	2,165
Number of SFA at S4fC	195	145
Total	50,187	49,911

Further to my Written Ministerial Statement on 17 March (Official Report, column 970W) regarding the new condition survey of SFA, it should be noted that the above SfC figures reflect the data collected from previous condition surveys.

Cycling

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* civil servants in his Department participate in a cycle-to-work scheme. [271291]

Mr. Kevan Jones: My Department has a strong commitment to cycle to work schemes in support of the MOD climate change strategy. During 2008-09, 322 Service personnel used cycles for their home to duty travel. Similarly during 2008-09, 336 interest-free loans were authorised for civilians to purchase cycles for commuting to work. In addition, at present 94 civilians have joined the MOD Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's cycle to work scheme which leases out cycles to staff using a salary sacrifice mechanism.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on consultancy contracts in 2008-09. [272584]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is intended for future publication and will be placed in the Library of the House before the summer recess, as is our usual practice.

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the use of service facilities by ex-servicemen's clubs. [273143]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ex-servicemen's clubs may use spare capacity in service facilities where this is compatible with operational requirements. Where publicly-funded facilities are provided the Department would normally be required to recover its costs; however, where there are justifiable benefits to defence, consideration can be given to abating the costs.

Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department made for the transfer of the remains of Sappers Azimkar and Quinsey from Northern Ireland; whether the remains were transported in military aircraft; at which airfield the flight carrying the remains arrived, and on what date and at what time; what ceremonies were observed on arrival of the remains at the destination airfield; and who comprised the official party receiving the remains. [273223]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The bodies of Sappers Azimkar and Quinsey were returned from Northern Ireland to the mainland on 13 March 2009 in a similar manner to that which has been used over the past 35 years. A memorial service was conducted at Massereene Barracks by members of 38 Engineer Regiment before the bodies were transported to Belfast International Airport by the MOD Funeral Directors, Dignity. They were flown back to London Heathrow on Aer Lingus Flight ECI 032 which departed from Belfast at 0740 in the morning and arrived at 0950. The flight was met by Kenyons, the MOD Funeral Directors. The body of Sapper Quinsey was then passed from Kenyons to the family's appointed Funeral Directors, Co-Op, in Birmingham. Sapper Azimkar's body was taken by private ambulance to Kenyons in London, who were appointed by the Azimkar family as their Funeral Directors.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department had with media outlets on the media coverage of arrangements made for the funerals of Sappers Azimkar and Quinsey. [273283]

Mr. Hutton: We routinely discuss media attendance at the funerals of Service personnel with the families of those who have died and with media organisations. We aim to minimise any distress that might be caused to families, friends and former colleagues by media coverage.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Church of Scientology

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1047W, on the Church of Scientology, whether the Church of Scientology is recognised as a religion for the purposes of *(a)* council tax exemption Class H and *(b)* business rate exemptions. [272240]

John Healey: It is for individual local authorities to decide whether Class H exemption from council tax applies in any case. The Department does not have information about those decisions as they relate to the Church of Scientology. It is for the valuation officers of the Valuation Office Agency to decide whether any hereditament is a place of public religious worship which is exempt from non-domestic rates in accordance with Paragraph 11 of Schedule 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Community Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons funding for the Inspiring Communities programme is restricted to 64 local authority areas. [273210]

Mr. Khan: Inspiring Communities is intended particularly for neighbourhoods where low aspirations have been identified as a barrier to young people achieving their potential. It is being targeted at deprived neighbourhoods and the 64 local authority areas are eligible to apply because on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 they either have:

10 per cent. or more of their Lower Super Output areas (statistical units of average 1,500 population) in the most deprived 10 per cent. in England; or

20 or more Lower Super Output Areas in the most deprived 10 per cent. in England.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the functions are of the regional neighbourhood training and resources centres. [273240]

Mr. Khan: The seven Neighbourhood Training and Resource Centres (NTRCs) in operation were originally set up by CLG to promote a unified approach to neighbourhood wardens by providing support and training to existing and new warden schemes. Over the last two years they have been diversifying, and now offer a

broad range of training and advice services for people and projects operating at a neighbourhood level. The aim is to deliver improved neighbourhood working and increased community empowerment in order to achieve more resilient and sustainable neighbourhoods.

Community Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps her Department has taken to increase levels of community cohesion. [272877]

Mr. Khan: We have demonstrated our ongoing commitment to community cohesion with a £50 million investment over three years and a public service agreement (PSA 21) to build cohesive, active and empowered communities. In addition to financial support we are working to support local authorities in delivering improvements in cohesion by providing a framework of guidance and targeted local support.

The latest part of this guidance framework was delivered in January 2009 and contains guidance on Meaningful Interaction and Building a Local Sense of Belonging, and summarises what we already know about the benefits of interaction and a local sense of belonging and how it can be achieved.

In addition, in we have also published ah inter faith framework. Supported by a funding commitment of over £7.5 million, it aims to maintain and further develop good relations between faith communities and wider civil society.

Council Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent under each budgetary heading on the Review of Council Housing Finance; and how many civil servants have provided support to the review. [272223]

Mr. Iain Wright: The review has spent £200,000 on external research and £186,000 on other activity—primarily to ensure maximum stakeholder input into the review. The Chartered Institute of Housing facilitated the delivery of 12 stakeholder workshops and three regional events in Bristol, Birmingham and Leeds. Stakeholders included local authorities, academic experts, housing practitioners, tenants and key sector representatives. Communities and Local Government also held separate seminars for national and regional tenant organisations during the review.

The review team consists of five civil servants in my Department and two from HM Treasury. They have been supported by other civil servants from both Departments and by a secondee from a local authority.

Council Housing: Rents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have responded to the consultation on the Draft Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination 2009-10 Amending Determination 2009 to the effect that they are considering taking up the offer of reducing rents for appropriate compensation. [272345]

Mr. Iain Wright: 173 local authorities have responded positively to the consultation. We are currently reviewing all responses received, and having discussions with those who have not responded, before preparing an amending Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination 2009-10 for issue later this month.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken by the Valuation Office Agency of the Lands Tribunal decision of Baker (Valuation Officer) (VO) v Citibank NA 2007 in its council tax valuation methodology, in relation to new hereditaments and material changes of circumstance. [272430]

John Healey: The case of Baker (VO) *v.* Citibank LT 2007 confirmed the principle that a change in the boundaries of a hereditament created a new hereditament. This principle applies for council tax as it does for non-domestic rating.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what property data from the stamp duty land tax database are used by the Valuation Office Agency for the purposes of *(a)* council tax valuations and *(b)* populating the automated valuation model with data. [272443]

John Healey: Data on property transactions are provided to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) by the Stamp Taxes Office of HM Revenue and Customs. These data are used by the VOA *(a)* to assist staff in maintaining council tax valuation lists and *(b)* as an input to its automated valuation modelling.

Councillors: Accountancy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 737W, on councillors: Arun, what plans the Audit Commission has to require other local authorities to disclose the bank account details of councillors held in their payroll databases. [273686]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1101-02W, 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 423-24W and 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 232W.

Councillors: Complaints

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Standards Board has issued on whether anonymous complaints against councillors should be considered by a Standards Committee; and what guidance has been given on whether anonymous complaints making potentially defamatory claims should be recorded in public minutes. [272149]

John Healey: The Department does not issue guidance on the conduct regime. The Standards Board for England's guide for authorities on the local standards framework

includes specific guidance on the handling of anonymous complaints, making it clear that anonymous complaints should only be considered if supported by evidence indicating an exceptionally serious matter. The guidance also provides that some details of any complaint considered should be made public following the decision as to whether or not it should be investigated, but these details need not contain the name of the subject of the complaint.

Departmental Consultants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1102W, on departmental consultants, what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the high-level seminar to engage senior leaders organised by McKinsey and Company. [273362]

Mr. Khan: The Communities High-Level Seminar (and the follow up work arising from the event) made a significant contribution to the successful development and implementation of the new local performance framework. This included the introduction of the National Indicator Set; publication of the National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy; agreement of 150 Local Area Agreements and the introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1102W, on departmental consultants, how much her Department has paid to McKinsey and Company in the last 36 months; and for what projects. [273363]

Mr. Khan: In addition to the work set out in the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 17 March 2009, McKinsey and Company also undertook two other pieces of work for the Department during this period:

A Review of DCLG Communications (July 2006). The value of this contract was £93,500 excluding VAT;

A Study of Local Strategic Partnership Performance and Capacity Building (September 2006). The value of this contract was £93,500 excluding VAT.

Departmental Manpower

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to reduce the use of *(a)* agency staff, *(b)* interim staff, *(c)* contractors, *(d)* consultants, *(e)* inward secondments and *(f)* outward secondments in her Department's headquarters building in the next six months. [273297]

Mr. Khan: In 2009-10 as in the previous year, our Administration Budget is planned to fall by 5 per cent. in real terms. Against this background, the Department will continue looking at the scope for making reductions in these areas and will take action where appropriate to reduce use of these staff. We currently have no plans to reduce the number of inward and outward secondments taking place.

The use of these groups of staff is appropriate in certain circumstances as a temporary measure. For example, agency and interim staff can be used to provide short-term additional support during heavy periods of work in key areas. Contractors or consultants may be used as and when specialised skills—not easily found within the Department—are required for time-specific projects.

There are controls in place within HR and Procurement to ensure that all recruitment takes place in accordance with the Department's business needs and in line with the Civil Service Recruitment Principles.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's end year flexibility entitlement was in 2008-09; what percentage of that entitlement has been taken up; for what programmes that funding will be used; and how much funding has been allocated to each programme. [273415]

Mr. Khan: The following tables set out the Department's End Year Flexibility entitlement for 2008-09 for each of its two departmental expenditure limits (DEL) and the take up of end year flexibility during the year.

Main programmes departmental expenditure limit (DEL)

		£ million
	Resource	*Capital*
End year flexibility (EYF) 2008-9	184.805	397.145
Take up of EYF—		
Winter supplementary estimates central administration costs	8.644	0.000
Spring supplementary estimates	0.000	0.000
Remaining	176.161	397.145
Percentage taken up	5	0

Local government departmental expenditure limit (DEL)

		£ million
	Resource	*Capital*
End year flexibility (EYF) 2008-9	106.837	418.069
Take up of EYF—	0.000	82.000
Winter Supplementary Estimates Local Government Public Services Agreement Estimates		
Spring Supplementary Local Government Public Services Agreement	10.000	10.000
Invest to Save Special Grant	0.410	0.000
Remaining	96.427	326.069
Percentage taken up	10	22

Government DEL, the resource EYF from 2007-08 was understated by £10 million due to an error in the published version of the Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn White Paper.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many overseas visits were made by staff in her Department in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* destination and *(b)* purpose was in each case. [272459]

Mr. Khan: In the 12 months to 31 March 2009 there have been 582 overseas trips undertaken by Communities and Local Government staff. Of the 582 trips there were 529 to Europe; 27 trips to North America, six trips to Australia and 20 trips to Asia.

The purpose of these journeys was to represent the Department and provide expert advice on policy/subject issues.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management code.

District Councils

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has commissioned any recent research on the financial viability of district councils in two-tier areas. [272417]

John Healey: While the Department has not commissioned any such research, in our 2006 Local Government White Paper—Strong and Prosperous Communities—we recognised that some district councils are too small to have the capacity to secure efficiency, drive change and provide strong leadership.

Economic Situation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1174W, on the economic situation, if she will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts provided at the event held on *(a)* 7 January 2009, *(b)* 5 February 2009 and *(c)* 26-27 February 2009. [273365]

Mr. Khan: One departmental presentation was made at the Home Builders Federation seminar held on 7 January 2009. A copy of this presentation will be placed in the Library. The other speakers at these events were from external stakeholders, who are responsible for their own presentations and handouts.

One presentation was made at the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme development workshop on 5 February 2009. A copy of this presentation will be placed in the Library.

A range of speakers from external stakeholders were invited to present their views at the Housing Roundtables held on 26-27 January 2009. External stakeholders are responsible for their own presentations and handouts.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1498-502W, on departmental conferences, if she will place in the Library a copy of the presentations and handouts produced for the Arms-Length Bodies in Finance networking event on 4 December 2008. [273458]

Mr. Khan: Two presentations were made at the Arms-Length Bodies in Finance networking event on 4 December 2008. Copies of the presentations will be placed in the Library.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 543-4W, on empty dwelling management orders, if she will place in the Library a copy of each ruling of the Residential Property Tribunal Service in relation to the issuing of each of the interim empty dwelling management orders with sensitive personal data redacted. [273450]

Mr. Iain Wright: Copies of the rulings of the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) in relation to all applications for interim empty dwelling management orders have been placed in the Library. 24 interim orders have now been approved and seven applications for interim orders have been rejected. The rulings are in the public domain and can be viewed on the RPTS website at:

www.rpts.gov.uk/decisions

European Commission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessors have paid in financial corrections to the European Commission since May 1997. [272456]

John Healey: The Department has incurred €51 million in financial corrections since 1997 on European programmes worth over €11 billion to England.

Fire Alarms

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria apply in the valuation of fire alarms for ratings purposes in the 2010 rates revaluation. [272432]

John Healey: A hereditament is rateable to the extent that it comprises land, buildings and rateable plant and machinery.

Plant and machinery items deemed rateable must be named in the Valuation for Rating (Plant and Machinery) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000/540), which can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2000/20000540.htm

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from her Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273441]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not dispose of waste food. The Department operates a food waste composting scheme in its main headquarter building, Eland House, and during the last 12 months the scheme avoided the disposal of 25 tonnes of food waste from the general waste stream. The waste food was instead sent for composting and re-use as organic material.

The Department does not hold sufficient data to estimate the monetary value of waste food redirected in the last 12 months.

Geographical Information Systems

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Valuation Office Agency is taking to comply with the recommendations contained in the report, Place matters: the location strategy for the United Kingdom. [272458]

John Healey: There are no recommendations in the report that require specific steps to be taken by the Valuation Office Agency.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns for 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [272113]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provisional publication date for the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns for 2008-09 is for November/December 2009.

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what external *(a)* companies and *(b)* consultants have been contracted by her Department to promote housing market renewal pathfinders; and how much had been spent on such contracts on the latest date for which figures are available. [273335]

Mr. Iain Wright: CLG has not contracted external companies or consultants to promote HMR pathfinders. It is for individual pathfinders to decide if they wish to promote their own activity and this information is not held centrally.

Housing: Low Incomes

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social tenants in each local authority area have bought a share in their home through the Social HomeBuy scheme to date. [271628]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the number of Social HomeBuy sales in each local authority area between April 2006 and March 2009. Social HomeBuy is a voluntary and demand-led scheme in which only some social landlords chose to participate. It is one of a suite of options designed to help social tenants into home ownership. Purchasers can buy shares of between 25 and 100 per cent.

Social Homebuy sales

Local authority area	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Adur	—	1	—	1
Allerdale	—	1	3	4
Ashford	—	—	1	1
Barking and Dagenham	—	0	1	1
Barnet	—	—	1	1
Basingstoke and Deane	—	3	—	3
Bexley	—	2	2	4
Birmingham	—	2	6	8
Bradford	3	2	1	6
Brent	—	5	1	6
Brighton and Hove	1	0	—	1
Bromley	—	5	2	7
Burnley	—	—	1	1
Camden	—	—	1	1
Cheltenham	—	1	—	1
Chorley	3	1	—	4
Copeland	—	1	6	7
Coventry	0	2	1	3
Crawley	—	7	—	7
Croydon[1]	6	3	8	17
Dudley	—	—	1	1
Durham	—	1	—	1
Ealing	—	3	—	3
Eastbourne	—	2	—	2
Eastleigh	—	1	—	1
Enfield	—	2	—	2
Greenwich	—	5	—	5
Hackney	2	12	1	15
Hammersmith and Fulham	10	4	1	15
Haringey	—	—	1	1
Hart	—	2	—	2
Hertsmere	—	1	1	2
Hillingdon	2	0	—	2

Social Homebuy sales

Local authority area	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Hounslow		9		9
Islington			2	2
Kensington and Chelsea	3	7	2	12
Kingston upon Hull	6	0		6
Knowsley			1	1
Lambeth			1	1
Leeds	2	2		4
Leicester		1		1
Lewisham		1		1
Liverpool		1		1
Luton			1	1
Manchester	1	15		16
Merton			1	1
Middlesbrough	1	5		6
Milton Keynes		1		1
Newham		2	9	11
North Hertfordshire		1		1
Oldham		1	7	8
Pendle		1		1
Plymouth		1		1
Redcar and Cleveland		1		1
Richmond upon Thames		1		1
Rochdale			1	1
Sefton		11		11
Sevenoaks			1	1
Sheffield		1		1
South Tyneside	1	2	5	8
Southampton			2	2
Southend-on-Sea		1		1
Southwark[1]		21	4	25
Sunderland			6	6
Tameside			1	1
Test Valley		1		1
The Wrekin		2	1	3
Three Rivers			2	2
Tunbridge Wells			4	4
Waltham Forest	1	9	4	14
Wellingborough	1	1		2
Welwyn Hatfield		1		1
West Berkshire		1	2	3
Westminster		1		1
Wirral			1	1
Woking	1	1		2
Wycombe			1	1
York	1	1		2
Total	67	160	98	325

[1] Provisional.
Croydon sales figure in 2008-09 include four sales by the local authority.
[3] Southwark sales figures include five sales by the local authority, three in 2007-08 and two in 2008-09.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in England there are with a CiG value significant code according to Valuation Office Agency records. [272422]

John Healey: The VOA has not undertaken a comprehensive exercise to gather value significant coding information on all domestic dwellings in England.

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which councils are pathfinders for new two-tier models of joint working. [272546]

John Healey: Four county areas—Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Hertfordshire and Lincolnshire—are currently enhanced two-tier working pathfinders. This includes the following councils:

County area	Councils involved
Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Aylesbury Vale District Council
	Chiltern District Council
	South Bucks District Council
	Wycombe District Council
Dorset	Dorset County Council

County area	Councils involved
	Christchurch Borough Council
	East Dorset District Council
	North Dorset District Council
	Purbeck District Council
	West Dorset District Council
	Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire County Council
	Borough of Broxbourne Council
	Dacorum Borough Council
	East Herts Council
	Hertsmere Borough Council
	North Hertfordshire District Council
	St. Albans City and District Council
	Stevenage Borough Council
	Three Rivers District Council
	Watford Borough Council
	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire County Council
	East Lindsey District Council
	City of Lincoln Council
	North Kesteven District Council
	South Holland District Council
	South Kesteven District Council
	West Lindsey District Council

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measure of council tax the Office for National Statistics uses to make comparisons between the tax and spending levels of local authorities. [272153]

John Healey: Information on council tax and local authority revenue expenditure is given in table 5 of the statistical release, "Local authority revenue expenditure and financing England: 2007-08 Final Outturn" available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/cos0708fin.pdf

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers to levy fines have been conferred on local authorities by her Department and its predecessors since 2003. [272439]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 744W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on special expenses in unparished areas; and whether the percentage increase in council tax including special expenses is taken into account by her Department in determining whether to cap a local authority. [272477]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government have not issued guidance to local authorities on special expenses in unparished areas. For capping purposes special expenses are taken into account.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1372W, on local government finance, on what date she expects to write to local authorities inviting bids for funding; what the maximum grant level will be; and when she expects to begin processing such applications. [273414]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency will shortly be inviting local authorities to bid for this funding, and will announce at the same time the timetable for decisions. There will be no maximum grant level set; bids will be assessed on value for money.

Local Government Finance: Departmental Coordination

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government departments and agencies participate in the regional funding allocation process in respect of regional assemblies and local authorities. [272414]

John Healey: The current regional funding advice exercise is being led jointly by Her Majesty's Treasury, the Department for Transport, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and my Department. Guidance on the exercise was issued by these Departments in July 2008 and can be found at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/regional_funding_advice300708.pdf

The guidance states that regions' advice will be valuable in informing decisions in the areas of transport, housing and regeneration, economic development and skills and that regions should consult with stakeholders that deliver relevant outcomes.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of the proportion of deposits held by local authorities in Icelandic banks that will be returned; what the timetable is for the return of such deposits; and whether interest will be paid. [272460]

John Healey: The administrators of Heritable and KSF, and the Resolution Committees of Glitnir and Landsbanki have made public their own estimates of what percentage of the principal and interest might be repaid in each case and by when.

Local Government: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to support the Mash the State campaign to encourage the accessibility of data held by local authorities. [272434]

John Healey: This is a voluntary initiative and it is a matter for individual local authorities to provide information to their citizens in whichever ways are most appropriate to meet the needs of their citizens. However, the Government supports the general principle of this campaign to encourage the accessibility of local authority data.

To this end, as was announced in the Communities in Control White Paper in 2008, we have developed the Timely Information to Citizens project, including approximately £1.2 million funding for around 20 pilot projects to support the development and take-up of good practice for local authorities on provision of information to their citizens. This project includes encouragement and support for local authorities to make the information held in their systems available for reuse by others.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made in achieving its target of a 30 per cent. reduction in data collections from local authorities to date; which data collections have stopped; and which data collections continue to be collected. [272446]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1080W.

Local Government: Inspections

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the direct and indirect costs of local government inspection to *(a)* local and *(b)* central government. [272151]

John Healey: The Audit Commission, which is sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government, is the only inspectorate of local government to charge a fee element to authorities for inspection. The reply I gave to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1547-48W, set out the estimated costs relating to the Audit Commission 2008-09 comprehensive performance assessment inspection programme for local authorities. There are no definitive figures to calculate the indirect costs of inspection to local government (such as staff time). The Department does not hold information about the costs of inspection of local authorities by other local services inspectorates.

Local Government: Planning Permission

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rights *(a)* parish and *(b)* town councils have to (i) comment on planning applications and (ii) make recommendations to the planning authority. [273477]

Mr. Iain Wright: Parish and community councils, including town councils, and the councillors who serve them, play an important role in our democratic planning system.

As prescribed in Article 13 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, parish or community councils can have a specific role in the decision making process for planning applications. It becomes a statutory duty on a local planning authority to notify the parish council about relevant applications, if the parish itself requests such notification. The purpose of notification is to invite comments, on specific applications.

The local planning authority may not determine a planning application until either a parish intending to comment has done so, or at least 21 days have elapsed following notification. The local planning authority must take into account any timely and relevant comments when reaching its decision. Its decision and the reasons for it must also be made publicly available.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons publication of the results of the Place survey has been postponed until June 2009. [272424]

John Healey: Before confirming publication arrangements for the Place Survey the Department is conducting a review to ensure the data are of sufficient quality. This is a responsibility that the Department takes very seriously. It is vital that the general public as well as the local government community can have trust in all official statistics that are used to measure local government performance. The review is being structured around the principles laid out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, published in January this year by the UK Statistics Authority.

As soon as we are in a position to do so we will pre-announce a publication date via the United Kingdom Statistics Authority website.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments have a rateable value of *(a)* between £10,000 and £15,000 in each Government Office Region outside London and *(b)* between £10,000 and £21,500 in London, according to Valuation Office Agency records. [272148]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

2005 Rating List as at 31 March 2009

	Number of hereditaments over £10,000 or under £21,500		
Government office region	*Under £15,000*	*Under £21,500*	*Number of hereditaments*
East Midlands	Yes	No	13,404
East of England	Yes	No	18,430
London	No	Yes	59,508
North East	Yes	No	6,361
North West	Yes	No	21,175
South East	Yes	No	27,670
South West	Yes	No	17,201
Wales	Yes	No	8,517
West Midlands	Yes	No	17,031
Yorkshire and the Humber	Yes	No	15,785

Non-Domestic Rates: Licensed Premises

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's guidance notes and advice for the rating of licensed premises for the 2010 rates revaluation. [272436]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 966W.

Official Hospitality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1103W, on departmental ministerial policy advisers, whether her Department keeps a register of the *(a)* declared interests of and *(b)* gifts, hospitality and benefits in kind received by special advisers. [273364]

Mr. Khan: The Department records declarations of interest, and maintains information about gifts and hospitality received by its staff, including special advisers, in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest timetable is for the introduction of a new version of planning guidance PPS6 to *(a)* abolish the needs test and *(b)* introduce a competition test. [272419]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 5 May 2009 we published a consultation draft Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS): "Planning for Prosperous Economies". This brings together all of the Government's key planning policies relating to the economy in both urban and rural areas into one single document, creating a coherent and modern set of policies designed to meet the economic challenges we face both now and over the longer term. This new PPS incorporates "draft PPS 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development"; "PPG 5: Simplified Planning Zones"; "PPS 6: Planning for Town Centres"; and the economic development policies in "PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas". We have also published a 'living draft' of town centres practice guidance to support the consultation PPS. The consultation documentation for the draft PPS and further details about how to respond are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationeconomicpps

The draft practice guidance and further details about how to submit comments are available on the GVA Grimley website at:

www.gvagrimley.co.uk/towncentresgoodpracticeguide

The draft PPS does not introduce a competition test. Following the Order made by the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) dated 3 April 2009, the Competition Commission (CC) is to reconsider certain aspects of the competition test they proposed as a result of their inquiry into the groceries market. The CC has undertaken to complete this work within the next six months. Government will then consider any revised recommendations made to it.

Regional Assemblies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Regional Assemblies and their successor bodies have offices in *(a)* Brussels and *(b)* Strasbourg; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of such offices in 2008-09. [272339]

John Healey: No regional assembly or successor body has a sole office in either Brussels or Strasbourg. However there are offices for each region in Brussels which are funded by a wide range of partners. The East of England and North West offices are managed by the respective assembly and successor body on behalf of a group of regional partners.

The costs of running these offices are drawn from a wide range of bodies. Records on these costs are not centrally held.

Regional Assemblies: Costs

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of the regional assemblies in England is in 2009-10. [272589]

John Healey: The estimated cost of the regional assemblies and successor bodies for 2009-10 is £18 million.

Regional Planning and Development

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made on the National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy. [271576]

Mr. Khan: The National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy was produced to support councils, as leaders of place, working with their local partners to deliver better outcomes, improve the quality of life in places and provide better public services. It commits urban and local governments and making it easier for councils and their partners to access the right support at the right time.

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships have been successfully launched and their 1st Annual Reports highlight around £100 million of efficiency savings in their first year and significant support to improve performance. They increasingly are providing councils with the mechanism to have a simply conversion for regional improvements needs in their locality.

In the 'Prospectus 2008: the guide to improvement and efficiency support' we set out a comprehensive picture of the support which central and local government are providing to local partners. This document provides a valuable practical tool to help make this happens.

Regional Planning and Development: Green Belt

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1509-10W, on regional spatial strategies, if she will revoke the elements of each regional spatial strategy which specify removal or undermining of green belt protection. [273451]

Mr. Iain Wright: Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) prepared by regional planning bodies set the framework for green belt policy and settlement policy for each region, forming the strategic planning context for local plan making by local planning authorities. The policies expressed in RSSs relating to green belts have been drafted in accordance with national planning guidance set out in Planning Policy Guidance 2 Green Belts.

Further, green belt policy like all policies contained in RSS is subject to testing through an independent examination at the Examination in Public (EiP). the EiP is also chaired by an independent Chair.

The RSSs do not contain policies which would lead to the removal or undermining of the protection of existing green belt; they do contain policies to carry out reviews of green belt in accordance with PPG2 Green Belts.

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of tenure for a tenant of a house in the *(a)* registered social landlord and *(b)* local authority sector was in each year since 1997. [272513]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the average length of residence of tenants at their current address in *(a)* the registered social landlord sector and *(b)* the local authority sector for each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07 are provided in the table. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

Average length of residence at current address, social sector tenants, England, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Years[1]

	Tenure	
	Local authority	*Registered social landlord*
1997-98	12.9	8.4
1998-99	13.0	8.4
1999-2000	13.3	8.9
2000-01	13.6	8.7
2001-02	13.3	9.6
2002-03	14.3	9.9
2003-04	13.8	10.2
2004-05	13.4	10.3
2005-06	14.3	10.7
2006-07	13.5	10.7

[1] Years are given in decimal format, for example the 0.9 in 12.9 refers to 9/10 of a year.

Source:
Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing.

Social Rented Housing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which local authority areas her policy of reducing social housing rents areas will be applied; and if she will make a statement. [272343]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today UIN 272345 to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman).

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 37W, on trade unions, what office facilities *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies provide for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional monetary value of such provision was in 2008-09. [271918]

Mr. Khan: The Department and its executive agencies provide recognised trade unions with the following office facilities:

Unit	*Facilities*	*Notional cost per year (£)*
Communities and Local Government HQ	Two offices, with four desks, computers, telephones, fax, printer, separate meeting room, stationery and notice boards	58,096.00
QEII Conference Centre	There are no office facilities provided	0
Fire Service College	One office, with a desk, computer, telephone and printer	1,200.00
Planning Inspectorate	One office, computers, photocopiers, fax machines and telephones, stationery and notice boards	29,000.00

Unitary Councils

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the level of savings to the public purse expected to result from the introduction of new unitary authorities. [272266]

John Healey: Whilst we have not estimated the level of savings that would be expected from introducing unitary authorities across England, the nine new unitary councils established on 1 April, which provide services to around 13 per cent. of the population of the two tier areas that existed in England prior to that date, are on track to make savings of over £100 million per annum once they are fully up and running, as well as having new opportunities for redesigning service delivery and simplifying partnership working. Local government in Wales, which is a devolved matter, has been wholly unitary since 1996.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list those local billing authorities which do not communicate with the Valuation Office Agency through the Valuebill and e-BAR interface. [272435]

John Healey: All billing authorities use the Valuebill interface. There are 57 billing authorities who have not submitted any of their Billing Authority Reports (BARs) using the e-BAR facility.

They are:

Mid Bedfordshire
Luton
Bedford
Cambridge
Fenland

South Cambridgeshire
Peterborough
Broxbourne
East Hertfordshire
North Hertfordshire
St. Albans
Three Rivers
Tendring
Uttlesford
Southend-on-Sea
North Norfolk
Babergh
Ipswich
Mid Suffolk
St. Edmundsbury
Derbyshire Dales
Derby
Charnwood
Harborough
Hinckley and Bosworth
Melton
North West Leicestershire
City of Leicester
Boston
Lincoln
North Kesteven
South Holland
South Kesteven
Corby
Daventry
East Northamptonshire
Northampton
South Northamptonshire
Mansfield
Newark and Sherwood
Nottingham
Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Ealing
Enfield
Harrow
Hillingdon
Bolsover
Chesterfield
Erewash
High Peak
North East Derbyshire
South Derbyshire
Wellingborough
Ashfield
Bassetlaw
Broxtowe

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency plans to publish its location-related datasets. [272453]

John Healey: No.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Single Payment Scheme stage one appeals are being processed by the Rural Payments Agency; how many of them have been subject to processing for more than *(a)* 90 days, *(b)* 120 days and *(c)* 150 days; and if he will make a statement. [270106]

Jane Kennedy: At 28 April 2009 the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) had 117 Single Payment Scheme stage 1 appeals under consideration of which 73 had been considered for less than 90 days.

Nine cases had been considered for up to 120 days; a further six for up to 150 days and 29 for more than 150 days.

The RPA aims to consider an appeal and notify the decision within 90 days, however given the complexity of some of the cases, which require additional legal and policy advice, this is not always possible to achieve.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* matched and *(b)* unmatched funding available to England from the EU agriculture budget was not taken up in each year since 1997. [273277]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is not responsible for the administration of all of the funding available to England from the EU budget.

The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1585W, on apprentices, what progress has been made on increasing the number of apprentices in his Department; and how many apprentices his Department employs. [251956]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has been actively looking for opportunities to recruit apprentices and to offer apprenticeship opportunities to existing DEFRA staff. The number of apprentices in DEFRA and its agencies at 31 March has increased to 16, of which 12 are part of the Pathfinder apprenticeship programme, and four are non-Pathfinder apprenticeships based at Kew Gardens.

DEFRA is actively looking for more opportunities in 2009-10 significantly to increase this number in core DEFRA and its agencies. An official has been allocated to this agenda, and is liaising with both the core Department and the agency network to ensure that DEFRA is doing all that it can to support this work. The Department is actively engaged with colleagues in Jobcentre Plus to identify ways in which development opportunities can be offered to unemployed citizens, in particular those sometimes viewed as 'harder to reach' such as the long-term unemployed.

Dairy Farming

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of farm holdings where dairy is the predominant activity in each year since 1997. [273421]

Jane Kennedy: The number of holdings where dairy is the predominant activity are shown in the following table for each year since 1997.

	Thousand holdings
1997[1]	18.0
1998[1]	17.0
1999[1]	16.3
2000	15.5
2001	14.3
2002	14.5
2003	13.8
2004	13.3
2005	12.9
2006[2]	11.1
2007[2]	10.6
2008[2]	10.1

[1] Data prior to 2000 are for main holdings only. Figures from 2000 onwards include main and minor holdings.
[2] Until 2006, cattle populations were derived from the annual June Survey of Agriculture. Since June 2007, they have been sourced from administrative data—the cattle tracing system. The farm types have been recalculated on this basis for June 2006 onwards.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for any such suspensions. [270517]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are currently four people within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who are suspended. Because it is such a small number, we cannot give further details because of the possibility of identifying individuals.

Suspensions are considered in line with DEFRA's disciplinary policy and procedures. These reflect the central framework set out in the Civil Service Management Code and they are available to all staff via the Department's intranet.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269538]

Jane Kennedy: No measurements were taken or estimated in 2004, 2005, 2006 or 2007.

In 2007 DEFRA commissioned its strategic supplier IBM to trial the use of ISO 14064 to provide an initial IT footprint assessment for the Department. This provisionally identified for April 2008 that IT in use across DEFRA and all its Executive agencies had an annual footprint of:

(a) 12 million kwH

(b) Costing £1.08 million (at 9p per kwH)

(c) Emitting 6 ktonnes CO_2

Subsequently as part of the Department's response to the launch of the HMG Green ICT Strategy in July 2008, IBM were commissioned to undertaken a feasibility study of the actions the Department could take to meet the 2012 target for carbon neutrality for ICT in use across the estate and to prepare its roadmap. The study team was asked to provide a more detailed assessment of the ICT footprint for the Department to provide a robust baseline for the roadmap. Preliminary figures from the draft report issued in April 2009 indicate that for 2008-09 core DEFRA and all its Executive agencies have an annual footprint for IT in use of:

(a) 12.5 million kwH

(b) Costing £1.13 million

(c) Emitting 6.5 ktonnes CO_2

An exercise has also been undertaken to re-align the April 2008 figures with the revised DEFRA organizational structure as at April 2009 and with an increased scope for the footprint that now includes telephony. This has established a footprint for 2007-08 of:

(a) 12.3 million kwH

(b) Costing £1.11 million

(c) Emitting 6.4 ktonnes CO_2

A breakdown of the above figures by device type is not currently available but a breakdown of energy consumption in million kwH is provided as follows of the broad device categories that were assessed i.e. work space assets used in the office, and data space assets e.g. servers and network assets used in the office and in off-site data centres.

Million kwH

	Original 2008 footprint study	*Re-aligned 2008 footprint*	*2009 footprint*
Office space	2.6	2.8	2.9
Data space	9.4	9.5	9.6
Total	12.0	12.3	12.5

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued to its staff on claims for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268443]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Rules relating to travel claims are set out in the Civil Service Management Code, which can be accessed at:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

DEFRA's travel policy is that staff are discouraged from travel in first class carriages on trains if the journey is less than 2.5 hours in duration. An upgrade is permitted when it is not possible to reserve a seat in standard class and no standard class seat is available.

All staff are encouraged to book tickets for travel at the earliest opportunity in order to obtain travel discounts and travel cost savings.

Elephants: Conservation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent reports he has received of elephant poaching in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) signatory countries in contravention of CITES. [272851]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I am aware of continuing concerns about elephant poaching and the recent ivory seizure in Vietnam. The UK has helped fund both the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programmes under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). We expect to receive an update on illegal elephant trade at the next Conference of CITES Parties in 2010.

Farmers: Income

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 816W, on farmers: income, how many farm businesses had an income of less than £10,000 in 2007-08. [273351]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the estimated number of farms with a Farm Business Income[1] (FBI) of less than £10,000 since 2003-04, based on the sample of farms included within the Farm Business Survey. Farm Business Income is the preferred measure of income but is not available for earlier years. Equivalent data are therefore also shown for Net Farm Income[2] (NFI) for the entire period.

	Number of farms with less than £10,000 FBI	*Number of farms with less than £10,000 NFI*
1997-98	n/a	34,000
1998-99	n/a	37,500
1999-2000	n/a	36,500
2000-01	n/a	35,500
2001-02	n/a	30,500
2002-03	n/a	28,500
2003-04	17,500	22,500
2004-05	22,000	27,500
2005-06	21,500	28,500
2006-07	20,000	26,000
2007-08	15,500	21,500

Source:
Farm Business Survey, England[3]

[1] Farm Business Income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[2] Net Farm Income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse alone for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. An imputed rent is deducted for owner-occupied farms as is a charge for other unpaid labour.

[3] The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their working time.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the programme of measures to be undertaken by individual water companies to secure critical infrastructure from flood risk; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* expected end date of each such project is. [272692]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies submitted their final business plans to Ofwat on 7 April. These plans included proposals to secure critical infrastructure from flood risk. Summaries of individual companies' plans, and web links to the full plans, can be accessed via the Ofwat website:

www.ofwat.gov.uk/pricereview/pr09phase3/sub_fbp_pr09partasumm

Ofwat is currently scrutinising these plans ahead of issuing draft determinations of water price limits for consultation in July.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* water companies and *(b)* Ofwat on programmes to protect critical infrastructure from flood risk. [272693]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I received a joint briefing from Ofwat, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Drinking Water Inspectorate on 27 April on water and sewerage companies' final business plans, which were submitted to Ofwat on 7 April. This included discussions on resilience.

Ofwat is currently scrutinising companies' final business plans ahead of issuing draft determinations of water price limits for comment in July.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the current level of risk from flooding to critical infrastructure of *(a)* reservoirs and dams, *(b)* electricity sub-stations, *(c)* gas power stations, *(d)* pumping stations and *(e)* other critical infrastructure. [272694]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Natural Hazards Team, charged with co-ordinating efforts to identify and counter risks to national infrastructure from natural hazards, has now been established in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office.

The team's first priority will be to assess the vulnerability to flood risk of key elements of the national infrastructure, which includes energy and water assets. This information will be used to prioritise flood resilience building in the national infrastructure. This work is expected to be completed in July 2009 and be published in sector resilience plans, along with proposed resilience measures, by the end of 2009.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the works required to protect critical infrastructure from flooding; and if he will make a statement. [272695]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA Ministers and officials maintain regular contact with water companies and representative bodies on a range of issues. This includes discussions concerning the resilience of critical infrastructure from flooding.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the latest Environment Agency maps of flood risk areas to be published. [273131]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency provides local updates of flood risk maps on its website on a quarterly basis. The latest update took place on 26 March 2009.

The Environment Agency plans to publish the latest national flood risk assessment information on its website in the spring. This will provide a major upgrade to the Environment Agency's flood risk maps.

Floods: Insurance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Association of British Insurers on development in flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [273226]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State has not had any formal meetings with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) recently. However, he was present at the recent launch of the draft Flood and Water Management Bill on 21 April at the Flood Forecasting Centre, along with ABI representatives.

I have had two recent meetings with ABI. I met with Stephen Haddrill on 10 March, and was then invited to give a keynote address at the recent ABI event in the House of Commons on 28 April.

DEFRA officials regularly meet with ABI representatives to discuss progress against commitments made under the ABI Statement of Principles on the Provision of Flood Insurance.

Hill Farming

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the average age of a hill farmer. [273419]

Jane Kennedy: The latest information we have available indicates that in 2007 the average age of a farm holder in the Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) in England was 59 years.

These data are sourced from the 2007 EU Farm Structure Survey.

Oil: Waste Disposal

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has had discussions at EU level on the implications for the implementation of the provisions of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 in respect of the status of waste oil of the ruling of the *(a)* European Court of Justice in the case of ARCO Chemie in 2000 and *(b)* Court of Appeal in the case of OSS Group v. Environment Agency in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [272835]

Jane Kennedy: The Arco Chemie case is discussed in the "Interpretative Communication on waste and by-products" published by the European Commission on 21 February 2007. The UK participated in the written consultation which the Commission carried out with member states on a draft of that communication.

DEFRA has not to date had discussions at EU level on the case of the OSS Group *v.* Environment Agency. With the aim of fulfilling the Appeal Court's judgment in that case, the Environment Agency carried out a public consultation on an end-of-waste protocol for "the production and use of processed fuel oil from waste lubricating oil". On conclusion of the Agency's consideration of the responses to that consultation, the Government will submit a post-consultation draft of the protocol to the European Commission, and other member states, in compliance with the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC).

Recycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has carried out into the effectiveness of local authority recycling schemes; and if he will make a statement. [273242]

Jane Kennedy: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme has undertaken any research into the effectiveness of local authorities' recycling schemes.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many end of waste cases have been submitted to the Environment Agency since January 2007; which manufacturers have had their product certified as having reached end of waste by the Environment Agency since that date; and if he will make a statement. [272176]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency and the DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) are working to develop 'end of waste' quality protocols that can identify when certain waste materials can be considered to be 'recovered' and no longer subject to waste management controls.

Since January 2007, 17 waste materials have been included in the programme. To date, quality protocols have been fully developed and published for two materials; compost from source-segregated biodegradable waste, and the production of cullet from waste flat glass.

The Environment Agency and WRAP do not certify products produced by manufacturers, but provide a framework for manufacturers to follow which will enable them to state with confidence that the material produced is no longer waste.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at what level of rated thermal input a Part 1A permit is required under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 for the

combustion of *(a)* fuel manufactured from waste, *(b)* fuel manufactured from waste which has attained an End of Waste certificate, *(c)* diesel and *(d)* hazardous waste; and if he will make a statement. [272177]

Jane Kennedy: The relevant thresholds are given in schedule 1, part 2, of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 and are as follows:

(a) Fuel manufactured from waste

Section 1.1 Part A(1) (a) 50 MW

Section 1.1 Part A(1) (b) 3-50 MW.

The relevant section will be dependent upon the specific type of material being burnt.

(b) Fuel manufactured from waste which has obtained an end of waste certificate

The term 'end of waste certificate' is not used in the 2007 regulations. There is, therefore, no threshold set in the 2007 regulations for this type of fuel.

(c) Diesel

Section 1.1 Part A(1) (a) 50 MW.

(d) Hazardous waste

The burning of 'hazardous waste' would fall under section 5.1 which does not refer to 'rated thermal input'. The thresholds in this section are based on tonnages of waste; however, it should be noted that for the burning of hazardous waste there is no "de minimis".

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 674W, on agriculture: subsidies, how much funding has been allocated under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme England 2007-2013 to village renewal and development to date. [270896]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) was formally approved in December 2007, £4.03 million has been allocated (i.e. committed to projects or programmes of investment) under axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 to village renewal and development.[1]

[1] Data provided by regional development agencies.

Sea Level

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has made predictions of changes in sea levels over the next 50 years. [270781]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Climate change is projected to increase the frequency, variability and magnitude of flooding and coastal erosion in the UK. The DEFRA funded UK Climate Impacts Programme published scenarios in 2002 which included a range of relative sea level rise of between 9 cm and 69 cm over a 50-year period.

Following this, DEFRA published revised supplementary guidance to operating authorities in 2006 with allowances that varied over time as well as location. This amounted to between 30 cm and 40 cm of relative sea level rise, depending on location, for the period between 1990 and 2055. DEFRA's supplementary guidance also indicated that by 2100, relative sea levels could rise between 79 cm and 98 cm, depending on location.

The Environment Agency, working with the Met Office Hadley Centre, has developed projections of sea level rise for the Thames Estuary 2100 project. This suggested that relative sea levels in the Thames estuary are likely to rise by between 20 cm and 88 cm, by 2100.

The UK Climate Projections 2009, expected to be launched shortly, will include a Marine Report providing information on possible future sea level rise and surge.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the effects on the economy of expected changes in sea levels in the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [270785]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We do not expect significant sea level rise within the next 10 years. DEFRA's supplementary guidance on climate change impacts for flood and coastal operating authorities estimates that between now and 2019, sea levels could rise by between 25 mm and 40 mm along English and Welsh coastlines, depending on location.

The UK Climate Projections, due to be launched in summer 2009 (UKCP09), will provide data on a range of climate variables, such as temperature and precipitation. The marine report also includes sea level rise and storm surge projections up to 2099 for three emissions scenarios. DEFRA will be reviewing its supplementary guidance in the light of UKCP09.

DEFRA is conducting a UK climate change risk assessment and adaptation economic analysis (CCRA and AEA) of the impacts of climate change. This will assess current and future vulnerability to a range of climate variables, including sea level rise, and quantify the risks and opportunities of these impacts across sectors, such as agriculture, water and the built environment. The CCRA and AEA will provide products to HM Government, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to:

Understand the level of risk (likelihood and scale of impact) and compare the risk of a changing climate with other pressures on the Government;

Prioritise adaptation policy geographically and by sector; and

Assess the costs and benefits of adaptation actions and support the case for resources for these.

The CCRA and AEA project is due to start in summer 2009 and is due to report to Parliament by January 2012 (as required by the Climate Change Act 2008).

Water

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of water companies on the potential need for hosepipe bans in the next six months. [273413]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA Ministers have not had any discussions recently with representatives of water companies on the need for hosepipe bans in the next six months. Water companies have powers to impose temporary hosepipe bans without recourse to Ministers.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Pay

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the *(a)* pay band and *(b)* cash equivalent transfer value is of each member of the senior management board at the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and if she will make a statement. [268591]

Maria Eagle: The information asked for under *(a)* will be part of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's annual report and accounts for the transition period of October 2007 to March 2008. The Commission intend that the annual report is laid before Parliament before the summer recess.

The cash equivalent transfer value information *(b)* will also appear in the remuneration report section of the annual report and accounts.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices:

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many new apprenticeship places in the agriculture sector have been created in the last 12 months; [272960]

(2) how many new apprenticeship places in the retail sector have been created in the last 12 months. [272961]

Mr. Simon: There were 4,500 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08 in the 'agriculture, horticulture and animal care' sector subject area, the latest academic year for which full year information is available.

There were 49,300 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08 in the 'Retail and Commercial Enterprise' Sector Subject Area, the latest academic year for which full year information is available.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05.

Further Education: Overseas Students

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many further educational establishments accepted non-EU students in the last year for which information is available; how many further education establishments were inspected in the latest year for which information is available; and how many failed that inspection. [272384]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* DIUS does not collect information on the number of further education establishments who accept non-EU students. However, data returned to the Data Service show that there were 392 FE establishments with non-EU domiciled learners undertaking some form of further education in the 2007-08 academic year. This is based on country of domicile information (the country where the learner has been ordinarily resident for the three years preceding the start of the programme).

Ofsted data show that 95 LSC-funded general further education and sixth form colleges were inspected by Ofsted between April 2008 and March 2009. Of these, the published results show that five colleges were graded inadequate for overall effectiveness and are therefore judged to have failed inspection.

Research Councils: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department has issued to the research councils on the expenditure of money which they save as a result of the value for money savings identified in the Budget 2009. [273121]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has given no instructions to the research councils.

The Research Councils have told us that they have revised their plans for value-for-money efficiencies for CSR07 which has resulted in the collective target for 2010-11 increasing from £243 million to £349 million. The resulting money is to be reinvested by the Research Councils in priorities to be identified by the Research Councils.

On 6 April, the Research Councils made public areas their initial views on areas for focus:

Green economy
Life science sector (including health and food)
Digital economy
High-value manufacturing systems and services
Cultural and creative industries

Vocational Training

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have completed training funded by his Department in each month since June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [272649]

Mr. Simon: In the 2007-08 academic year 2,960,300 people achieved at least one qualification funded by the Learning and Skills Council. This includes qualifications achieved through study at a Further Education provider, and those achieved through an Apprenticeship or Train to Gain programme.

Data on the number of people achieving a qualification are only published on an academic year basis. The latest provisional estimate of mid-year performance (1 August to 31 January) for the 2008-09 academic year shows that 49,100 learners completed an apprenticeship, and 152,000 learners achieved a qualification through the Train to Gain programme.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: Mentally Ill

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision the Government has made for children in care with chronic and severe mental health disorders; and if he will make a statement. [272571]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are addressing the problems faced by children in care with chronic or severe mental health needs through a range of measures including taking forward the recommendations of the CAMHS review in relation to vulnerable children and piloting the Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care programme for children in care with severe and complex needs. We will shortly be publishing for consultation proposals on promoting the health of looked after children through revised statutory guidance. This will require CAMHS services to provide targeted and specialist services to looked after children where there is an identified local need. Since April 2008 all local authorities have to screen children in care for emotional and behavioural difficulties through use of a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and in partnership with primary care trusts provide support where the screening shows this is necessary.

Children in Care: Personal Records

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for how long local authorities are required to keep records of children in care. [273286]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Local authorities are required to keep case records for looked after children until the 75th anniversary of the child's date of birth or 15 years from the date of death in the case of a child who dies before reaching the age of 18.

Foundation Schools

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what circumstances a foundation school may be closed by a local education authority; what powers he has to prevent such a closure; and if he will make a statement. [273418]

Jim Knight: School place planning is the statutory responsibility of the local authority (LA). This includes making sure there are sufficient school places, and also removing surplus places when this is required. To facilitate this, LAs have the power to propose the closure of any type of maintained mainstream school, including foundation schools.

Where the LA proposes to make any changes to local school provision, including closure, they must follow a statutory process, which is then decided under established local decision making arrangements. Ministers have no direct role in the process.

Decisions are normally taken by the LA. However, in the case of a foundation school closure there are certain rights of appeal. Where they do not agree with a LA's closure decision, the school's governing body, trustees and local Dioceses each have a right of appeal to the independent schools adjudicator, who will then consider the proposals 'afresh'. The adjudicator's decision is final.

Pupils

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the End of Key Stage attainment levels achieved by pupils in schools in England who have been living in the UK for less than two years; and whether such attainment levels are included in results published by schools. [273136]

Jim Knight: We have made no separate assessment of the attainment of these pupils.

Individual pupils recently arrived from overseas with little or no English can be removed at a school's discretion from the data we use for calculations in the Department's Achievement and Attainment Tables, provided they meet all of the following criteria:

(for the 2008 tables) they were admitted to an English school for the first time on, or after, the start of the 2006-07 school year; and

they arrived from overseas prior to their admission; and

their first language is not English

Schools may present their own performance data in any way they choose i.e. either including or excluding the results of such pupils.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* total and *(b)* transitional protection funding for sixth forms for academic year 2009-10 was identified in letters to sixth forms dated (i) 3 March 2009 and (ii) 30 March 2009. [270390]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the LSC, and they will be writing to the hon. Member shortly. Following the announcement in the Budget of £655 million of additional funding the LSC have written to schools and colleges to give them immediate reassurance that they will receive the funding for the learners they have already planned for and outline the next steps.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1148W, on special educational needs, to which departmental capital and revenue funding streams non-maintained special schools have access. [273425]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For the 2009-10 financial year non-maintained special schools have access to the following funding streams:

Capital

Devolved Formula Capital

Revenue

Schools Standards Grant

School Standards Grant (Personalisation)

Standards Fund

Teacher Threshold Payments

Harnessing Technology Grant

A small number of school are also eligible for School Travel Grant

Sure Start Programme: Leicestershire

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding was allocated for SureStart provision in Leicestershire in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10. [272491]

Beverley Hughes: The SureStart funding allocated to Leicestershire local authority from 2006-07 to 2009-10 is given in the following table.

£

	Revenue funding	*Capital funding*	*Total funding*
2006-07	720,223	3,571,042	4,291,265
2007-08	1,641,054	8,621,763	10,262,817
2008-09	9,387,852	7,464,637	16,852,489
2009-10	11,448,975	5,139,063	16,588,038
Total	23,198,104	24,796,505	47,994,609

In 2006-07 and 2007-08 Leicestershire local authority chose to pool its revenue funding in a local area agreement which was paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG, formerly the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, ODPM) as part of the LAA grant revenue. This funding was not ring fenced to SureStart activities; Leicestershire local authority had the freedom to spend the funding pooled in its local area agreement in line with local priorities. Therefore the allocation shown for 2006-07 and 2007-08 contains only pilot funding and money to transform the early years workforce which was the funding paid through the SureStart grant.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of imports of biomass necessary to enable the Government's biomass targets as specified in the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation 2008 to be met. [249618]

Joan Ruddock: In its Consultation on a Renewable Energy Strategy, Government published figures estimating that there is potentially sufficient domestic resource to meet nearly all our modelled bioenergy requirement for heat and electricity in 2020 but we recognise that, as occurs today, it is likely that we will make use of a mix of domestic and imported products.

We are in the process of furthering our understanding of how the biomass market to supply the UK may develop and intend to use this information to inform development of the Renewable Energy Strategy. We will, of course, publish our findings.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis is for the statement in paragraph 7.5.35 of the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation 2008 that one of the principal constraints to achieving the infrastructure for biomass envisaged in that paper is public hostility to combustion plant, particularly those burning waste. [249620]

Joan Ruddock: Anecdotal evidence, correspondence received and the Government's experience of challenges to its waste PFI projects demonstrate that there is considerable hostility in some quarters to the combustion of waste. This is a common experience throughout Europe.

Green Neighbourhoods Initiative

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1806W, on the Green Neighbourhoods Initiative, for what reasons the scheme is still in development; how much funding will be allocated to the scheme; and what the timetable is for the allocation of funding to participating neighbourhoods. [271283]

Joan Ruddock: Green Neighbourhoods is currently under review. Following the Budget 2009 announcements we anticipate a decision on Green Neighbourhoods being made within the next few weeks.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many renewable heating products have been accredited by Ofgem under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target programme. [272931]

Joan Ruddock: A total of 545 heat pumps and 216 m_2 of solar water heating have so far been installed in the first year of the obligation. All measures are accredited before installation.

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Exchequer has received from the aggregates levy in each month since its introduction; [273079]

(2) how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff of HM Revenue and Customs work on matters related to the aggregates levy. [273080]

Angela Eagle: Aggregates levy monthly revenue figures are available at this website address:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=Bulletins

No HM Revenue and Customs staff work on aggregates levy matters exclusively. Those that work on the levy have a range of responsibilities.

Bank Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in the UK have *(a)* a basic bank account, *(b)* a bank account and *(c)* no bank account. [273085]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to reducing financial exclusion and increasing the number of people who can manage their money by using a bank account.

The Family Resources Survey data for 2006-07, published in June last year, show that the number of adults with a basic bank account was around 2.5 million and that the overall number of adults with access to a bank account was 44.6 million. The data also show that the number of adults without access to a bank account fell from 2.8 million in 2002-03 to 2.1 million in 2006-07.

The Financial Inclusion Taskforce recently published its third annual report on access to banking. The report contains profiles of the number of people in the UK without access to a bank account, including commentary and figures for the take up of basic bank accounts. The report is on the Taskforce's website:

http://www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk

Bank Services: Overseas Residence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulatory restrictions exist on the opening of a bank account in the United Kingdom by non-domiciled British citizens. [272725]

Mr. Timms: There are no statutory legal or regulatory restrictions preventing banks from providing services to non-domiciled, or non-resident, British citizens.

Bradford and Bingley

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what UK Financial Investment's role in the preparation of the most recent Bradford and Bingley Business Plan was; and if he will make a statement. [272836]

Mr. Timms: As set out in the Shareholder Relationship Framework Document which governs the relationship between Bradford and Bingley and HM Treasury as shareholder, HM Treasury designed the high level objectives that the Business Plan is designed to achieve and agreed the Business Plan with the Board.

The Shareholder Relationship Framework document is available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bradford_bingley_shareholder_framework.pdf

Business: Government Assistance

Peter Luff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications Capital for Enterprise Ltd. has received from banks to join the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme; and how many such applications *(a)* have been processed and *(b)* are outstanding. [259158]

Ian Pearson: In launching the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme (EFG) all the 31 lenders accredited to deliver the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme (SFLG) were approached to participate in the new scheme.

To date, 26 lenders have migrated across, with the remaining five SFLG lenders either undecided or have decided not to participate in the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force; [272135]

(2) how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272138]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 317W, to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark).

Copies of the Advisory Reports and their associated display energy certificates in respect of each property were placed in the Library at that time. The cost of these reports was £5,400.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting the Euro Steering Committee held in the last 24 months. [272776]

Ian Pearson: The last meeting of the Euro Ministers Steering Group was held on 6 June 2007. The Government's policy on membership of the single currency remains unchanged.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to be in a position to *(a)* set a timetable for the opening of the ex-gratia payments scheme for Equitable Life policyholders to receipt of claims, *(b)* estimate the length of time to be taken for the determination of claims made under that scheme and *(c)* establish mechanisms for considering disputed claims made under that scheme. [272726]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 856W.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to allocate future revenues raised through the auctioning of allowances under the *(a)* second and *(b)* third phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; and if he will make a statement; [272834]

(2) where revenue raised through the auctioning of allowances from the EU Emissions Trading Scheme is accounted for in *(a)* the Red Book and *(b)* general accounts published with the Budget Statement; and if he will make a statement. [272979]

Mr. Timms: Any revenue raised through the use of auctioning is considered as part of general revenue streams, and has already been factored into public finance forecasts. These revenues cannot be allocated as a separate income source without an equivalent reduction to the public finance forecasts. The spending review process ensures that resources are allocated efficiently to deliver Government objectives.

Auction receipts from the EU emissions trading scheme are included in the 'Other taxes and royalties' line in Table C6 in Budget 2009, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf

and in Table 2.9 of 'Budget 2009: the economy and public finances – supplementary material', available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf

Government Departments: Aviation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to OGC buying.solutions contract, reference RM645, which company won the contract for the Government Air Programme; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* duration of the contract is. [272777]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 985W.

No company has yet won the Framework Agreement for the Government Air Programme. The planned award is set for June 2009.

The Framework Agreement will be awarded for a two-year period with the option to extend for a third year.

Inheritance Tax: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer at what stage in the process of the payment of inheritance tax the Valuation Office Agency undertakes a valuation of the property forming part of the inherited estate. [272778]

Mr. Timms: It is HM Revenue and Customs' standard practice to seek the advice of the Valuation Office Agency about the value of UK land and buildings where inheritance tax is payable. In the great majority of cases this happens shortly after the inheritance tax papers are received in the operational office following the issue of the grant of probate to the personal representatives of the estate.

Mass Media

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what media appearances *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has made since 1 January 2009. [271170]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers undertake a number of visits, interviews and appearances on a wide range of issues.

The information requested is not collected centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 27 March 2009 on his constituent, Mr. T. Lewer. [272592]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 15 December 2008 concerning his constituent, Ms Pippa Cuckson of Great Leighs, Chelmsford. [273480]

Mr. Timms: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Pre-Budget Report 2008: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will request the Security Commission to undertake an investigation into the unauthorised disclosure of information relating to taxation measures in the Pre-Budget Report 2008. [272070]

Angela Eagle: It has been the policy of successive Administrations not to comment on the initiation of, content of, or outcome of any such inquiries.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the implementation of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) Workforce Change programme on the average yield per annum brought in by an HMRC compliance officer. [273236]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not collect the information asked for. Annual yield and yield/cost ratio figures are published in the departmental autumn performance report, available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/autumn-report-2008.pdf

The implementation of HMRC's Workforce Change programme enables business efficiencies by matching HMRC's staff resources and estate to future business needs. It is one of many factors in HMRC's reorganisation and strategy that together have resulted in a continuous improvement in yield in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

	£ million
2005-06	9,001
2006-07	11,430
2007-08	12,853

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed on work contracted out by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland; and what percentage in each case are paid less than £7.45 per hour for that work. [273112]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not have the information requested.

Royal Mail: VAT

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for Royal Mail of the recent European Court of Justice ruling on value added tax liabilities; and if he will make a statement. [273170]

Mr. Timms: The Government welcome the Court's confirmation that postal services provided by Royal Mail, as the only UK universal service provider, will continue to be exempt from VAT. HM Revenue and Customs are considering the implications of the judgment in detail.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of tax relief on pension contributions goes to *(a)* basic and *(b)* higher rate taxpayers. [257646]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: A break down of tax relief on individual and employee contributions broken down by the individual's marginal tax rate is provided in the following table:

Marginal income tax rate	*Percentage of tax relief*
Higher rate	65
Those that would be higher rate without the tax relief	5
Others	30

Note:
This distribution is based on 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes data that has been adjusted to account for the 2008-09 tax rates. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 per cent.

It is not possible to provide such a breakdown for employer contributions.

Tax Allowances: Personal Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income tax relief was payable in respect of personal pension contributions for income taxed at *(a)* 40 per cent. and *(b)* 20 per cent. in 2006-07. [250200]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: The amount of income tax relief at the basic rate in respect of personal pension contributions was estimated to be £790 million in 2006-07. The amount of income tax relief in respect of those taxed at the higher rate was £2,430 million in 2006-07.

These figures have been rounded to the nearest £10 million and relate to contributions by employees and the self-employed only. They are based on 2006-07 survey data. It is not possible to provide such a breakdown for employer contributions.

Tax Allowances: Personal Savings

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the higher annual ISA investment limit will be available only to those aged 50 years and above for the tax year 2009-10. [272831]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise that low interest rates, which are benefiting many people with mortgages, have meant that savers have seen their return from savings fall. In particular, this has affected people who are retired, or are beginning to prepare for retirement, who are more reliant on their savings income to meet day-to-day needs or fund discretionary purchases.

As announced in Budget 2009, the Government are therefore taking targeted action now to help people aged 50 and over with their savings. The ISA limits are being raised for those aged 50 and over from 2009-10, enabling them to move more of their savings into a tax-advantaged ISA, rewarding those who have saved by improving their
returns.

The Government also recognise that people need to be supported to save as the economy emerges from the downturn, and therefore the ISA limits will increase to the same level for all savers from April 2010.

Taxation: Bingo

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the bingo industry of the changes to taxation announced in the 2009 Budget; [272846]

(2) what estimate he has made of the net change in revenue to the Exchequer from changes to the taxation of bingo clubs announced in the 2009 Budget. [272847]

Angela Eagle: The estimated revenue impacts of the changes to the taxation of bingo are set out in Table A1 of the 2009 Financial Statement and Budget Report. The revenue impacts of the relevant Budget measures are shown in the following table.

£ million, + or - to an Exchequer yield

		Indexed			*Non-indexed*
Measure number	*Description*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2009-10*
47	Gambling participation fees removal of VAT	-50	-55	-60	-50
49	Bingo duty: increase rate to 22 per cent.	+ 35	+ 35	+ 35	+ 35

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much accrued to the Exchequer in taxes on gross profits made by the bingo industry in each of the last five years. [272941]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs publishes receipts from bingo duty on the UKTradeInfo website:
https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm.?task=bullbett

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Table A1 of the Budget

2009 Red Book, item 49, how much HM Treasury received in value added tax from the bingo industry in each of the last five years. [273293]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

However, it is possible to estimate the amount of VAT paid by the bingo industry based on bingo duty receipts. In 2008-09, the bingo industry is estimated to have paid around £65 million in VAT on bingo participation fees.

Taxation: Pensioners

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to the answer of 11 February 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1490-1W, on pensions (tax relief), if he will estimate the amount of tax relief on pension contributions provided in each financial year since 2003-04 *(a)* in total and *(b)* for (i) higher rate taxpayers and (ii) basic rate taxpayers; [264994]

(2) if he will estimate the number of taxpayers receiving pension tax relief at the *(a)* higher and *(b)* basic rate in each year since 2003-04; and what percentage of all taxpayers below state pension age these figures represent in each case. [264896]

Ian Pearson: Estimates of total tax relief on pension contributions from 1998-99 to 2007-08 can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7-9.pdf

Estimates of relief attributable and number of taxpayers receiving relief by marginal rate are only available for employee and individual contributions. These estimates, along with the proportion of taxpayers receiving relief, are given in the following tables.

It is not possible to provide such a breakdown for employer contributions.

Table 1: Total amount of tax relief and higher rate relief

			Higher rate	
	Total amount of tax relief (£ million)	*Amount of tax relief at HR (£ million)*	*Number in receipt (thousand)*	*Number receiving as a proportion of all taxpayers—below SPA only (percentage)*
2003-04	5,400	2,700	2,200	9
2004-05	5,700	3,200	2,400	9
2005-06	6,600	3,800	2,500	9
2006-07	7,500	4,700	2,800	11
2007-08	7,800	4,900	2,900	11

Table 2: Total amount of tax relief and non-higher rate relief

			Non-higher rate	
	Total amount of tax relief (£ million)	*Amount of tax relief at BR (£ million)*	*Number in receipt (thousand)*	*Number receiving as a proportion of taxpayers—below SPA only (percentage)*
2003-04	5,400	2,600	11,500	48
2004-05	5,700	2,500	10,700	42
2005-06	6,600	2,800	9,800	37
2006-07	7,500	2,800	12,100	46
2007-08	7,800	2,900	12,200	46

Notes:

1. Figures up to 2006-07 are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes in that year.
2. Figures for 2007-08 are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes in 2006-07 projected forward one year in line with pre-Budget 2008 report.
3. Figures for the amount of tax relief have been rounded to the nearest £100 million.
4. Figures for the number in receipt have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
5. While the total amount of relief and number in receipt includes some individuals over state pension age, these individuals have been excluded from the final column showing the number receiving as a proportion of taxpayers below state pension age.

Valuation Office: Conferences

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1629-30W, on Valuation Office: overseas visits, if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts produced by the representative of the Valuation Office Agency at the *(a)* Russian Society of Appraisers Conference in Moscow, *(b)* European Valuers Conference in Warsaw and *(c)* International Property Tax Institute Conference in Beijing. [272966]

Mr. Timms: A copy of the presentations for *(a)* and *(c)* will be placed in the Library.

I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1262W regarding *(b)*.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the HM Revenue and Customs investigation into the tax credit case of the constituent of the hon. Member for Nottingham North, Mrs. Carmen Angus, to be concluded. [272796]

Mr. Timms: I am not able to publish details of an individual's dealings with HMRC.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish statistics on the take-up rates for *(a)* child and *(b)* working tax credit for (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [273424]

Mr. Timms: The 2006-07 take-up rates for child and working tax credit have been published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

The 2007-08 take-up rates are planned to be published in spring 2010.

Welfare Tax Credits: Eligibility

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has measures in place to give financial assistance to vulnerable families on low incomes pending the outcome of investigations into tax credit eligibility. [272795]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs will make manual payments of tax credits in exceptional circumstances to prevent hardship, or where a claimant is temporarily out of payment.

Related guidance is available on the Department's website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/payment_direct/ntc0403100.htm

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Gamma Butyrolactone

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many death certificates issued in each of the last three years ascribed the primary cause of death to the use of gamma butyrolactone. [272886]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many death certificates issued in each of the last three years ascribed the primary cause of death to the use of gamma butyrolactone. (272886)

Gamma butyrolactone (GBL) is a precursor chemical that is rapidly converted to gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) when ingested into the human body. Consequently, it is not possible to provide reliable figures on deaths related to GBL separately from deaths involving GHB, as it is not possible to separately identify these substances at post mortem.

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning and GHB was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either alone or together with other substances, in England and Wales, from 2005 to 2007 (the latest year available). GBL was specifically mentioned on the death certificate in one of these deaths.

Where more than one drug is mentioned on the death certificate, it is not always possible to tell which of them was primarily responsible for the death.

Table 1. Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning[1] where gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales[2], 2005 to 2007[3]

Deaths

	Gamma hydroxybutyrate only	*Gamma hydroxybutyrate and other substances*	*Total mentions of gamma hydroxybutyrate*
2005	2	2	4
2006	4	3	7
2007	3	6	9

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in box 1 below) and where gamma hydroxybutyrate was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes used to define drug-related poisoning deaths by underlying cause

Description	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Departmental ICT

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much the Cabinet Office has spent on the provision of information communications technology for 10 Downing Street in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [271090]

(2) how much the Cabinet Office has spent on information communications technology training for staff based in 10 Downing Street in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [271091]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is an integral part of the Cabinet Office, and the spending of the PMO on information communication technology (ICT) would be included in that of the Cabinet Office.

ICT spend and ICT training for the Cabinet Office can be separated into two distinct areas:

(1) Regular spending on ICT and ICT training for staff. This includes such activities as maintaining hardware and training new staff members in the use of the Cabinet Office systems. The overall spending on ICT during 2007-08 is contained in the 'Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2007-2008'. The annual report is available at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about_the_cabinet_office/reports.aspx

and is in the Library. Providing information on regular ICT spend in earlier years can be done only at disproportionate cost.

(2) Project spending on ICT and ICT training for staff. ICT projects that will require trained staff will include the cost of that training within their budgets. For a list of major ICT projects since 2005 I refer the hon. Member for Mid-Bedfordshire to my response

given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1449W. The costs given include the cost of training where training was necessary. Information on the costs of training alone or on the costs of ICT work between 1997 and 2005 are available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1449W, on Government Departments: ICT, which major IT project initiated by his Department is behind schedule; and for what reason. [271946]

Mr. Watson: The project to upgrade the IT desktop system across the Department is behind schedule. The system is currently in its pilot stage which has been extended until functionality and performance have been proven.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office post of head of public engagement is a new post; whether the post will be part of the Government Communications Network; and what the job specification of the post is. [271960]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office does not have a head of public engagement nor does it have plans to recruit one.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether staff in 10 Downing Street are eligible for bonus payments. [272018]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

An element of the Cabinet Office's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example, by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Government Departments: Temporary Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which provisions of the Government's compact with contractors and trade unions have been implemented. [272011]

Mr. Watson: Government have been implementing the joint statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting since its launch in July 2008. The implementation of the joint statement is subject to ongoing review by the Public Services Forum.

Ministers: Aviation

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the tonnage of carbon dioxide emissions from non-scheduled flights undertaken by *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* other Ministers in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [273333]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested by the right hon. and learned Member cannot be separately identified by the Cabinet Office. To seek to identify the information requested would require a detailed analysis of the management information provided by the Department's travel contractors. The Department estimates obtaining this information would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Non-profit Making Associations: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on not-for-profit organisations in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [272791]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) is working with key partners to understand the impact of the economic downturn on third sector organisations. At present the available evidence is incomplete and somewhat inconsistent, indicating it is too soon since the start of the downturn to fully evaluate the impact on the sector at a national or constituency level.

The Government continue to take the difficulties many third sector organisations face during this recession very seriously, which is why the £42.5 million package announced in "Real help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises" provides targeted help for the sector to face these challenges. This package of support was designed together with third sector leaders and took into account submissions from over 80 charities. This action plan builds on the wide range of measures the Government have put in place to support people through the economic downturn, and on the Government's long-term commitment to voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

The OTS will continue to monitor this situation closely and work with its partners to share evidence on this issue and will host a sector-wide summit on the economic downturn in June. In addition, the Third Sector Research Centre will also be factoring the impact of the downturn into its analysis of the sector.

Unemployment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged between 16 and 24 years old have never been employed. [273314]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 years old have never been employed. (273314)

For the three month period October to December 2008, it is estimated that 2.2 million people aged 16 to 24 had never been in employment, apart from casual or holiday work.

The estimate is derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) using the latest data available (October-December 2008). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. In sampling error terms the above estimate is considered to be precise as the coefficient of variation (CV) lies between 0 and 5 per cent. The CV indicates the quality of the estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The estimate has been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimate is not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to protect the islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory from the effects of *(a)* pollution, *(b)* unsustainable fishing, *(c)* poaching and *(d)* habitat degradation; and if he will make a statement. [272040]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) is recognised by many scientific authorities as a globally important environmental site where pollutant levels in the waters and marine life are exceptionally low. The BIOT Administration is committed to maintaining and preserving the unique BIOT environment and its environmental adviser pays an annual visit to the Territory to assess the environment and report back to the BIOT Commissioner.

With regards to fishing, BIOT is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission which works for the conservation and sustainable development of tuna and tuna-like species in the region. Those wishing to fish in BIOT waters are subject to the fisheries (conservation and management) laws of the Territory. Laws are enforced by the Fisheries Protection Officer on board the BIOT patrol vessel, the Pacific Marlin, which regularly patrols BIOT waters.

CDC: Finance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to CDC in order to meet the pledge made at the G20 summit to finance the new World Bank Global Trade Liquidity programme; and if he will make a statement. [270064]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not providing CDC with any financial resources for this purpose.

Conflict Prevention: Finance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what proportion of the new funding arrangements for conflict prevention is classed as Official Development Assistance (ODA); which programmes are eligible for ODA; and if he will make a statement. [272065]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) achievable through the Conflict Fund will be determined by the programmes (Africa, South Asia, Middle East, wider Europe, etc.) and the activities they prioritise for funding. Work is still ongoing to finalise the portfolio of projects under each programme and therefore it is not possible at this stage to say how much will be classed as ODA. All five programmes that make up the Conflict Fund will undertake both ODA and non-ODA eligible projects.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force. [272133]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not yet incurred any expenditure on an inspection of air conditioning systems in accordance with these regulations. An inspection of the one DFID building affected has been commissioned but has not yet been completed.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the regulations came into force; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272141]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has one building, our London Headquarters, with an air conditioning system with greater than 250kW of output. We have obtained a Display Energy Certificate for this building as required, but whilst a specific inspection of the air conditioning system has been commissioned, it has not yet been carried out. We will place a copy of the inspection report in the Library of the House as soon as it is available.

Developing Countries: Influenza

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist developing countries in relation to the global swine influenza outbreak; and if he will make a statement. [273349]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £20 million to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Bank over the last three years to support influenza pandemic preparedness and response capacity.

As my hon. Friend, (Mr. Michael Foster), announced on 7 May 2009 we have set aside a further £6 million for WHO and UN OCHA in response to the recent outbreak of swine flu.

We have also instructed DFID's network of country offices to discuss the threat with WHO in-country and to consider how we might help to prevent or respond to any outbreak.

We are in close touch with inter-Departmental contingency planning and with WHO and UN OCHA.

Kenya: Administration of Justice

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department provides to support the justice system in Kenya; and whether he plans to increase the level of such assistance to take account of the role of the Kenyan authorities in prosecuting piracy suspects. [272919]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not currently provide funding for the Kenyan justice sector, although the UK Government, led by the Ministry of Defence, has provided some bilateral training to Kenyan Government prosecutors in relation to piracy. We are, however, proposing support through the European Commission (EC), using Stability Instrument funds through a large UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) programme.

The proposed EC assistance would be targeted at the prosecution, police, judicial and prison services, particularly focusing on capacity and logistical shortfalls associated with the trials and detention of piracy suspects. An indicative amount of €1.74 million has been proposed, using the UNODC in Kenya as the implementing partner. We understand that this project is likely to be fully funded by the Commission, which the UK Government very much welcome as appropriate recognition for the efforts being made in Kenya.

Palestinians: Overseas Trade

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on trade and investment in the Palestinian territories since the Palestinian Trade and Investment Forum in December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [273115]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since the London Business Forum on Trade and Investment in Palestine, there have been a number of positive developments. Palestinian Fairtrade olive oil was launched in February this year and is now on sale in UK supermarkets. This will increase sales of Palestinian olive oil, upon which 100,000 Palestinian families depend for their livelihoods.

The Palestine Britain Business Council has also been established, with the purpose of promoting and facilitating bilateral trade and investment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It will hold its next meeting in Ramallah later this month.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is working closely with a range of private sector stakeholders on the follow-up to the London Business Forum and will be supporting both tourism and construction scoping missions to the West Bank over the summer. These will aim to map opportunities in the two sectors and bring them to the attention of British business.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 694W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional monetary value of such provision was in 2008-09. [271926]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An office in each our two main UK buildings is provided for the exclusive use of trades unions. The notional annual value of these rooms, in terms of rent and rates, is £6,600 for 2009-10.

USA

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which meetings he attended on his recent visit to New York; what the subject of each meeting was; and if he will make a statement. [272354]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of Ministers' travel are published annually in the Cabinet Office publication "Overseas Travel by Ministers". The most recent version is available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/propriety_and_ethics/assets/travel_2007_2008.pdf

World Bank

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department proposes to allocate to the World Bank as a result of the recent G20 agreement; what proportion of such funding is new money; and from which budgets such allocations will be made. [270399]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Countries represented at the 2 April London Summit agreed that they would make resources available for protecting the poor though the crisis, including through the World Bank's Rapid Social Response Fund. On 15 March I announced that my Department would give £200 million in support of the Fund. Resources to fund this contribution will be managed within agreed Treasury departmental allocations.

Zimbabwe: Asylum

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Zimbabwean refugees in South Africa *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [272736]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no accurate data on the numbers of Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa. The majority of Zimbabweans have crossed the border into South Africa informally and are thus largely 'invisible' in statistics. Human Rights Watch estimated in 2008 that since 2005 an estimated one to 1.5 million Zimbabweans have fled across the border into South Africa. Of these, the minority have lodged an asylum claim and an even smaller number have received refugee status.

The following table published on 8 March 2009 by the South Africa Department of Home Affairs show the number of Zimbabweans who have applied for political asylum in South Africa since 2000, as well as those granted and refused refugee status.

	New applications (asylum seekers)	Approvals (refugee status approved)	Rejections
2000	8	—	—
2001	31	7	—
2002	225	2	—
2003	3,711	2	18
2004	6,206	22	25
2005	9,419	284	4
2006	18,973	103	1,878
2007	17,667	271	1,623
2008	111,968	Unknown	Unknown
Total	168,208		

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian assistance has been given to support Zimbabwean refugees in South Africa in each of the last five years. [272842]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £690,000 of humanitarian assistance to 10,000 vulnerable migrants and children living in Musina (Limpopo Province) close to the South African and Zimbabwean border; and approximately 40,500 vulnerable migrants who have been displaced due to xenophobic attacks in June 2008 in the Guateng, Kwazulu Natal and Western Cape provinces. While the majority of these vulnerable migrants are Zimbabwean, there are also nationals from other countries (i.e. Angola and Congo) who live in the same areas. Some of these vulnerable migrants may have refugee status, but our humanitarian programmes do not record this data. We are providing a further £738,000 to these groups in the current year. We had no humanitarian spend in South Africa between 2004 and 2007.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 8 May 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children In Care

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have children or young people in their care who are in placements outside the authority area; and how many young people in the case of each authority are so placed. [271340]

Beverley Hughes: Information about the location of placements of looked after children and whether they are placed inside or outside of their local authority area can be found on the DCSF statistics website at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

The required information is set out in Tables LAA18 and LAA19. These are in EXCEL format in the third set of additional tables on the above website.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243723]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central Advertising and Publicity Budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates.

Advertising is part of a full integrated promotional campaign. The question refers specifically to advertising and we have been able to separate the Department's spend on advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information.

The cost of recruitment advertising for the department has not been included as it is not possible to establish a definitive figure, except at disproportionate expense.

The Department's advertising spend and that of its predecessor (DFES) since April 2007 is set out as follows, with a breakdown of individual campaigns. All figures exclude VAT.

DCSF advertising billing 2007/08

Campaign title	*Media total (£)*
Childcare 2007/08	136,289
City Challenge 2007/08	53,007
DCSF Sponsored Parenting Phase 1 2007/08	34,217
Consumer Segmentation for Editors Briefing 2007/08	14,270
STEM 2007/08	338,258
MFL 2007/08	374,881

DCSF advertising billing 2007/08

Campaign title	*Media total (£)*
School Food Trust 2007/08	396,692
Children's Plan Launch 2007/08	125,759
National Year of Reading 2007/08	88,423
DCSF Recruitment and Classified Advertising 2007/08	72,556
Frank 2007/08 (DCSF only)	635,930
Teenage Pregnancy 2007/08	2,449,668
Skills Pledge June 2007	34,978
Diplomas 2007/08	3,771,787
Total	8,526,715

DCSF advertising billing 2008/09 (Costs invoiced to date)

Campaign title	*Media total[1] (£)*
Diplomas 2008/09	4,156,858
DCSF—STEM 2008/09	348,884
Who Do We Think We Are 2008/09	2,446
National Year of Reading 2008/09	126,684
Teenage Pregnancy 2008/09	309,061
DCSF—MFL 2008/09	869,475
Parent Know-How 2008/09	9,897
DCSF Summer Holidays Affordable Childcare 2008/09	203,697
DCSF Media Only Campaigns 2008/09	20,081
Total	6,047,083

[1]2008/09 figures refer to costs invoiced to date and not actual DCSF spend.

Departmental Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on its staff undertaking voluntary work; and what estimate he has made of the number of such staff who undertook voluntary work in the last 12 months. [272496]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department believes that volunteering is important to enable staff to engage with communities they serve and have a better understanding of local issues to help deliver the Children's Plan.

The Department has a well established policy to encourage all staff to volunteer on a regular and sustained basis. The Department has an annual 10 per cent. target of staff volunteering. The Department's recent Staff Survey showed that up to 317 of staff have volunteered in the last 12 months (13 per cent. of those who responded). The Department encourages staff to volunteer by regularly advertising national and local opportunities on the Department's intranet and local communication channels; there are also local volunteering contacts on all of the Department's sites in Darlington, Sheffield, Runcorn and London.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from his Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273442]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not currently record the amount of food waste that is generated at each of our buildings. This is included within our overall land fill statistics. Separate records are kept for all other waste streams that are recycled, for example paper, glass, plastics and cans. Discussions are under way with our catering and waste management providers as to how the DSCF can reduce or eliminate the amount of food waste that is sent to landfill.

Grandparents: Parental Responsibility

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the attitudes of grandparents to providing childcare support for their grandchildren. [273816]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Officials from the Department for Children, Schools and Families reviewed the literature around the attitudes of grandparents providing child care support for their grandchildren, as part of the work to develop the strategy document "Next Steps for Early Learning and Childcare" (published January 2009).

Later this year we will hold a consultation event with grandparents and grandparents' interest groups to update the position on support grandparents need from services.

Primary Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of primary school places required in England for children *(a)* one of whose parents is non-UK born, *(b)* who were born abroad and *(c)* whose first language is not English in each year from 2009-31. [273993]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Local authorities are responsible for planning the supply of school places in their area and must ensure provision is responsive to local circumstances and needs. When projecting future demand for places we expect authorities to take account of factors that will have an impact on future pupil numbers, such as changes in the immigrant population—including children born abroad to a non-UK parent and whose first language is not English.

Pupil Exclusions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were excluded from school before they were due to sit GCSE examinations in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 2005. [268361]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is not available in the form requested.

The available information on the number of pupils aged 15, in secondary and special schools, who received a permanent exclusion or one or more fixed period exclusions in England, the North East and Middlesbrough local authority area is shown in the table.

Comparable figures for 2005 are not available because in 2005-06 information on fixed period exclusions was collected from secondary schools only.

Information on exclusions in the UK is not collected by the Department. Information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are available from the Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Department of Education, respectively.

To provide data at constituency level would incur disproportionate cost

Secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of pupil enrolments aged 15 who received a permanent exclusion or one or more fixed period exclusions[3,4]: England 2006-07

	Number
Middlesbrough LA	170
North East	1,790
England	39,110

[1] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[2] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Pupils who were aged 15 on 31 August 2006.
[4] Some pupils will have more than one enrolment and will be counted more than once, if they are registered at more than one school or moved schools during the year.
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

The Department's exclusions guidance sets out those governing bodies must review all permanent exclusions from their school, and fixed period exclusions that would result in a pupil missing a public examination. It also states that the governing body should try to meet before the date of the examination, or if exceptionally this is not practical, that the chair of governors—using his or her powers to act in an emergency—may consider the exclusion and decide whether or not to reinstate the pupil. Where a pupil is excluded, depending on the nature and seriousness of the exclusion, the governing body/management committee may exercise its discretion to allow an excluded pupil on the premises for the sole purpose of taking a public examination.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers head teachers in maintained schools have to permanently exclude pupils. [271351]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Section 52 of the Education Act 2002 gives head teachers the power to exclude pupils for a fixed period or permanently, on disciplinary grounds.

Departmental guidance sets out the procedures to be followed, and explains that the decision to exclude a pupil permanently should be taken only in response to serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy, and if allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of gifted and talented pupils were persistent absentees in the latest period for which figures are available. [268485]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the following table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Persistent absentees within the gifted and talented cohort[3,4] England 2007-08

Number of gifted and talented enrolments[5]	Number of gifted and talented enrolments who are persistent absentees	Percentage of gifted and talented enrolments who are persistent absentees	Percentage of all enrolments who are persistent absentees
704,620	9,320	1.3	3.6

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Persistent Absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.
[4] Pupils who were identified as gifted and talented at the time of the January 2008 census.
[5] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year to 23 May 2008. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Admissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new school places he plans to create in each of the next five years. [272866]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Local authorities are responsible for planning the creation of new school places and are under a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available to meet local needs. The Department allocates Basic Need funding to enable local authorities to provide the additional places needed in response to a growth in pupil numbers. Allocations are based on each authority's own pupil projections which they provide to the Department annually through the Surplus Places Survey. To enable authorities to plan deployment of their resources, these allocations are set for three years at the start of each spending review period. In addition, in 2008 the Department operated a "safety-valve" mechanism for funding new pupil places, to deliver additional funding for authorities facing exceptional circumstances because of the rate of growth of pupil numbers.

During the current spending review period (2008-09 to 2010-11), £1.2 billion of Basic Need funding will be allocated among the 150 local authorities in England. Additionally, four authorities were allocated exceptional Basic Need safety valve funding totalling £83.24 million.

Schools: Construction

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the budget required for school building provision in the academic year 2009-10. [273991]

Jim Knight: The Department's information on forecast spend is held on a financial year basis. Most capital projects are delivered over more than one financial year, and the Department's financial planning is based on a three yearly spending cycle. For 2009-10 financial year, our current forecast is to support investment in schools of around £7.5 billion. This forecast is under continuous review and will be subject to change. In addition, £1.3 billion of PFI credits are available to be allocated through Building Schools for the Future.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with statements of special educational needs who attended mainstream schools took an unauthorised absence from school in each year since 1997. [271830]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the table.

Data on pupil characteristics linked to absence was collected in the School Census for the first time in 2005/06, but was collected from secondary schools only, therefore information on absence for pupils with statements of special educational needs prior to 2005/06 cannot be provided. In 2006/07 data was also collected from primary and special schools.

Primary and secondary schools[1,2] number and proportion of pupils with statements of special educational need taking one or more sessions of unauthorised absence[3,4] 2005/06—2007/08 England

	2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Number of pupil enrolments with statements taking unauthorised absence[3,4]	n/a	29,200	14,090	27,930	13,970	26,050
Total number of pupil enrolments with statements[3,4]	n/a	72,430	58,810	68,800	56,450	65,090
Proportion of pupil enrolments taking unauthorised absence[4,5]	n/a	40.3	24.0	40.6	24.7	40.0

n/a = Not available.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Pupils with statements of special educational need at the time of the January census.
[4] Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they were registered at more than one school or moved schools during the year).
[5] Number of pupils with statements of special educational need who were absent for one or more sessions due to unauthorised absence, as a proportion of the total number of pupils with statements of special educational need, in each phase.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils with a statement of special educational need for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties received *(a)* a fixed-period and *(b)* permanent exclusion from a mainsteam school in the most recent year for which figures are available; [273642]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils with a statement of special educational need were given *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight, *(i)* nine and *(j)* 10 or more fixed-period exclusions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [273644]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information could only be provided at disproportionate cost. This is because the special educational needs status can change between periods of exclusion and the Department is currently working on a methodology for the analysis of this information.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Derelict Land: Gardens

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1503-5W, on gardens, if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter requesting data on planning provisions sent to local planning authorities. [273366]

Margaret Beckett: A copy of the letter was placed in the Library (reference DEP2009-1135) on 17 April 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1503-5W, on gardens, what timetable she has set for the report of the garden land review. [273367]

Margaret Beckett: Our aim is to conclude the second stage of the review by the summer.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1503-5W, on gardens, what arrangements she has made for external analysis of the data. [273368]

Margaret Beckett: We will publish further details of the second stage of the review when the results of the first stage are clear.

Eco-Towns: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what external *(a)* companies and *(b)* consultants her Department has retained for the purpose of promoting eco-towns; and at what cost. [273434]

Margaret Beckett: The Department has retained no public affairs companies and consultants in relation to the promotion of eco-towns.

In order to promote the public consultation on eco-towns, the Department contracted the Central Office of Information to provide a range of marketing and public relations services, elements of which they allocated to agencies on their frameworks.

The Department also contracted the following marketing services agencies in relation to this work:

Redhouse Lane
Skyline Whitespace
Transmedia
Louise Burston

The Department will publish a breakdown of expenditure in relation to promoting the eco-towns public consultation on its website in conjunction with the publication of its next annual report.

Energy Performance Certificates

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on the effectiveness of energy performance certificates of enabling the Act on CO_2 advice line to contact home buyers and sellers to advise on support in improving the energy rating of their homes. [271570]

Margaret Beckett: No such assessment has been made. We are working with the Energy Savings Trust, who operate the Act on CO_2 advice line, to identify homes with poor energy efficiency ratings and to better target their advice.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what external *(a)* companies and *(b)* consultants have been contracted by her Department to promote home information packs; and at what cost. [273471]

Margaret Beckett: In the financial year (2008-09) the Department conducted a campaign to meet its duty to inform industry and consumers of changes to HEPs as of 6 April 2009 and also to promote wider Government information for those buying or selling homes. The Department contracted the following activity through the Central Office of Information who engaged appropriate suppliers through their framework.

	£
Advertising/media - Press	728,038
Advertising/media - Digital	485,279
Website	15,824

In addition the Department contracted Blue Rubicon for Public Relations activity.

Public Relations—£232,400

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was received by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies in asset sales in each of the last five years; and how much grant-in-aid each such body received in each of those years; [270572]

(2) how much was spent by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies on administration in each of the last five years. [270605]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

For the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 inclusive, figures for (i) asset sales receipts, (ii) grant in aid received, and (iii) spend on administration for English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation can be found in their published annual report and accounts each year.

With regard to the Academy for Sustainable Communities (which did not come into being until 2005-06), asset sales receipts were consolidated within the annual report and accounts of its parent organisation, Yorkshire Forward. The Academy was not funded on a grant in aid basis. Spend on administration (including staff costs, rent, rates, travel and marketing) by the Academy was as follows:

	Amount (£ million)
2005-06	0.2
2006-07	1.7
2007-08	1.9
2008-09	2.2

Figures for the HCA will be published in its annual report and accounts 2008-09. Figures for 2008-09 for English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation will appear in what will be their final annual reports and accounts in light of their wind up.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many asset sales by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies involved receipts of *(a)* between £500,000 and £750,000, *(b)* between £750,000 and £1 million and *(c)* over £1 million in each of the last five years; how much was received in each case; and how many such sales involved the disposal of assets (i) purchased, (ii) developed and (iii) improved with public funds. [270574]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies of the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

The following table shows the number of development asset sales by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies over the last five years and the total amount received for those receipts in the categories shown.

		(a) Between £0.5 million and £0.75 million	*(b) Between £0.75 million and £1 million*	*(c) Over £1 million*
2004-05	Number	20	16	39
	Amount received (£ million)	13.3	13.6	112.3
2005-06	Number	8	11	38
	Amount received (£ million)	4.9	9.0	337.7
2006-07	Number	6	7	42
	Amount received (£ million)	3.8	6.0	313.3
2007-08	Number	6	6	39
	Amount received (£ million)	3.8	5.4	313.8
2008-09	Number	6	9	28

Audited information is not yet available for the amount received in 2008-09.

The answer to the latter part of the question could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what losses attributable to overpayments of *(a)* grants and *(b)* subsidies the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies incurred in each of the last five years. [270602]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the agency from Communities and Local Government.

The HCA and its predecessor bodies did not incur any losses through the overpayment of grant over the last five years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the agreed administration budget for the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies was in each of the last five years. [270606]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the agency from Communities and Local Government.

The agreed administration budget for the Homes and Communities Agency, English Partnerships and the Academy for Sustainable Communities at the start of each financial year from 2005-06 onwards is shown in the table.

£ million

	English Partnerships	*Homes and Communities Agency*[1]	*Academy for Sustainable Communities*[2]
2005-06	47	—	—
2006-07	48	—	2
2007-08	51	—	2
2008-09	—	86	—
2009-10	—	86	—

[1] The Homes and Communities Agency was established on 1 December 2008 and the figure for 2008-09 is provided on merger accounting principles, ie as if the HCA existed from the start of the financial year.
[2] The Academy for Sustainable Communities was established during 2005 and figures are not available for this year.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest million

It is not possible to disaggregate the administration budget for the investment arm of the Housing Corporation without incurring disproportionate costs.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by the *(a)* Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies on information technology projects in each of the last five years; and how many such projects cost in excess of £1 million. [270607]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the agency from Communities and Local Government.

A table showing information technology (IT) projects expenditure in each of the last five years for the Tenants Services Authority (TSA), the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies is as follows:

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
HCA[1]	–	–	–	–	3.299	3.299
English Partnerships	2.055	2.003	1.667	1.953	–	7.678
Tenant Service Authority[2]	–	–	–	–	1.974	1.974
Housing Corporation	1.567	2.054	1.532	3.336	–	8.489
Academy for Sustainable Communities[3]	–	0.051	0.136	0.167	0.096	0.45

[1] The HCA came into existence on 1 December 2008. The figure for 2008-09 includes that of the former English Partnerships.
[2] The Tenant Services Authority came into existence on 1 December 2008. The figure for 2008-09 includes that of the former Housing Corporation. It is not possible to disaggregate the IT projects of former Housing Corporation for 2008-09 between those that transferred to the HCA and those that transferred to the TSA.
[3] The Academy for Sustainable Communities was set up in 2005, hence figures for 2004-05 are not available.

During the period 2006-07 to 2007-08 a total of £1.170 million (included in the above figures for the Housing Corporation) was spent on a project to deliver a programme management information system for the capital investment programme (grant regime for registered social landlords (RSLs).

During the period 2007-08 and 2008-09 a total of £2.269 million (included in the above figures for the Housing Corporation and Tenant Services Authority) was spent on a project to provide the hosting of the Housing Corporation's IT infrastructure for a contract period of up to five years. This was the set up costs which included servers, PCs, a disaster recovery facility, transition from the old provider and project management. The annual cost of hosting this is £1.9 million per annum from January 2008.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value of ex-gratia payments made to the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies was in each of the last five years. [270608]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the agency from Communities and Local Government.

No ex-gratia payments have been made to the HCA and its predecessor bodies in the last five years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of each *(a)* study and *(b)* review commissioned by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors was in each of the last five years. [272508]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency does not hold information in these distinct categories, nor did its predecessor bodies. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1540W, on the Homebuy scheme, how many homes have been purchased in each Government Office region under *(a)* the Social Homebuy scheme and *(b)* Homebuy schemes other than Social, Open Market or New Build Homebuy in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2009 to date. [269883]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 218W.

The following table shows provisional figures for Social HomeBuy completions through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme by region for 2008-09.

	2008-09
North East	7
North West	23
Yorkshire & Humberside	1
East Midlands	0
West Midlands	12
Eastern	2
London	[1]44
South East	10
South West	0
England	99

[1] London figure includes six sales in local authority sector. Sales figures by registered social landlords (RSLs) are from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Although a few HomeBuy Direct sales are known to have been fully completed, official figures are not yet available. However, approximately 18,000 HomeBuy Direct properties were selected by the Homes and Communities Agency and over 32,000 potential buyers have registered their interest in the scheme.

Provisional figures show that there were around 1,100 completions under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme under which homes may be rented at a subsidised rent for a specified period with the opportunity for tenants to buy a share later. This is a new scheme and which began in 2008-09.

Detailed data on scheme completions are compiled and analysed on a monthly basis. Figures for April 2009 will be available later in May.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Social Homebuy sales there were in each region in 2008-09; and what estimate has been made of the number of sales which will take place in 2009-10. [270690]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Meriden to question 269883.

No estimate has been made for number of sales in 2009-10 as Social HomeBuy is a voluntary and demand led programme. Sales depend on the number of landlords who choose to offer their tenants the opportunity of home ownership through the scheme and take up by tenants. Social HomeBuy is one of a number of home ownership options made available to social tenants.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average equity stake initially purchased by a homebuyer through the *(a)* Open Market HomeBuy Scheme, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct Scheme and *(c)* MyChoice HomeBuy Scheme has been to date; [272350]

(2) how much initial equity on average homebuyers participating in the *(a)* Social Homebuy, *(b)* Own Home, *(c)* Rent to HomeBuy and *(d)* First-time Buyers scheme have purchased to date; [272364]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average initial equity purchased by households participating in the Government's low cost home ownership programme by scheme.

	£
Social HomeBuy	138,888
Open Market HomeBuy	125,592
MyChoice HomeBuy	108,410
Own Home	112,025
First Time Buyers' initiative	101,114

There have been no sales yet under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme which enables potential purchasers to rent a home for up to five years before buying a share.

To the end of March 2009 there were no fully completed sales registered under HomeBuy Direct.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed transactions there have been under the HomeBuy Direct scheme to date. [272423]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1119W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applicants have registered with HomeBuy providers in each of the last 12 months. [272579]

Margaret Beckett: This information is not held centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been purchased under *(a)* OwnHome, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* HomeBuy Direct, *(d)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(e)* Social HomeBuy, *(f)* the First-Time Buyers Initiative, *(g)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(h)* MyChoice HomeBuy in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [272758]

Margaret Beckett: The data available on purchases of HomeBuy products in each of the last three years is given in the following table.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
New Build HomeBuy	11,017	14,880	10,647
Social HomeBuy	47	160	99
First Time Buyers Initiative	24	818	1,025
Open Market HomeBuy	2,293	2,749	6,123
Ownhome	—	—	799
MyChoice HomeBuy	—	—	3,123

The 6,123 Open Market HomeBuy purchases in 2008-09 include the 799 through Ownhome and 3,123 through My Choice HomeBuy shown separately in the table.

For New Build HomeBuy the table shows completions.

For HomeBuy Direct I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1119 W.

There have been no purchases under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme, which enables potential purchasers to rent a home for up to five years before buying a share.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the *(a)* development and *(b)* maintenance of the homebuy.co.uk website in each of the last three years; and what budget has been assigned to the website for each of the next two years. [272814]

Margaret Beckett: HomeBuy.co.uk is not a Government website.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure she expects her Department to incur in publicising HomeBuy products in each of the next three years; and what promotional activities have been planned. [272978]

Margaret Beckett: There are no current plans for the Communities and Local Government Department to publicise HomeBuy products directly in future years.

Marketing of HomeBuy products is the responsibility of the HomeBuy Agents.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many right-to-buy sales there were in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [273645]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing the number of local authority right to buy sales by local authority for each year from 1997-98 has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The figures only include local authority right to buy sales. They do not include registered social landlord preserved right to buy sales, details of which are not available at local authority level.

The figures are from quarterly P1B returns from local authorities to CLG.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of housing completions in each region was of affordable homes in each year since 1997. [273647]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the proportion of affordable housing new build completions as a percentage of total house building completions in each year since 1997-98, by region.

Percentage

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
1997-98	16	17	17	14	18	13	36	21	19	19
1998-99	15	19	14	13	18	16	34	23	16	19
1999-2000	11	14	12	10	18	11	32	17	17	16
2000-01	8	13	11	10	16	14	33	17	15	16
2001-02	13	16	11	9	15	15	36	18	16	17
2002-03	5	14	9	9	18	14	28	18	14	15
2003-04	9	9	10	10	15	15	31	21	18	17
2004-05	10	11	8	11	18	16	27	25	16	17
2005-06	12	10	10	15	21	21	40	27	20	20
2006-07	13	12	11	13	16	22	45	28	17	22
2007-08	10	16	13	20	28	28	54	27	24	26

Total new build completion figures are from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC) to CLG.

Affordable housing new build figures are collated from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS); and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities. Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1397-8W, on housing: low incomes, how many homes were purchased for use as social rented housing stock in each year since 1997. [273648]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of homes purchased for social rent in England, from 1997-98.

	Homes purchased for social rent
1997-98	11,770
1998-99	10,960
1999-2000	9,180
2000-01	8,860
2001-02	8,170
2002-03	6,450
2003-04	4,290
2004-05	2,890
2005-06	2,460
2006-07	2,450
2007-08	3,390

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG

Total social rented housing is provided by new build completions, as well as acquisitions. In 2007-08, an additional 25,390 social rented homes were built in England, plus a further 590 homes which cannot be

broken down by new build or acquisitions, to give a total of 29,370 additional social rented homes provided in England.

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 317W, on the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government: finance, what the terms of reference were of the good practice on migration project. [272331]

John Healey: The aim of the Migration Excellence Programme was to develop a good practice toolkit for local government that provided local authorities with guidance on how to pool and analyse all relevant national, regional and local data and intelligence in order to build accurate local profiles of Central and Eastern European migration.

The purpose and structure of the project were to provide:

1. Local authorities with an inventory of data sources
2. Information on publicly available on-line information
3. Guidance on how partners should be sharing data
4. Examples of good practice from three case study areas.

Mortgages

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 918W, on mortgages, when she expects *(a)* Santander, *(b)* Nationwide, *(c)* HSBC and *(d)* Barclays to implement terms for their customers similar to those offered under the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme. [272108]

Margaret Beckett: Santander (including Abbey and Alliance and Leicester), Nationwide, HSBC and Barclays (including First Plus) have confirmed they will now be offering comparable arrangements to Homeowners Mortgage Support to their customers, while opting not to take up the Government guarantee.

Customers of these institutions experiencing a reduction in income and willing to make regular monthly repayments will receive a similar level of support and be encouraged to seek independent money advice.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in each local authority area have received assistance under the Mortgage Rescue scheme in each of the last six months. [272111]

Margaret Beckett: The Government Mortgage Rescue scheme has only been operational across the country since 1 January 2009, following successful 'fast tracking' by 80 local authorities in December 2008. The scheme is one part of a comprehensive package of measures to help households at risk of repossession.

Based on the January-March 2009 monitoring returns, 452 households had applied for and were being actively considered for Mortgage Rescue assistance during this period, of which 57 cases were in the final stage of the process (referral to the Registered Social Landlord) as at the end of March. It can take between three and four months for a household to complete the process from the time they approach a local authority because it is similar to that of selling a property, involving procedures such as property valuation and negotiations between the parties involved. As at the end of March, one household in the Government Office East region had completed the process, whereby a housing association had agreed to purchase their property and enable the household to remain in their own home as tenants.

Headline data from the first monitoring returns submitted by local authorities implementing the scheme were published on the CLG website on 30 April 2009:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/repossessions/

The published tables, broken down by Government Office Region, comprise a consolidated return for January and February 2009, and a separate table for March 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regional caps will be set on *(a)* property value and *(b)* household income in respect of assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [272450]

Margaret Beckett: The regional property price caps for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme have been reviewed and amended on the basis of feedback from delivery partners and early monitoring information. The changes, which are effective from 1 May 2009, are as follows:

£

Region	*Original property price cap*	*Revised property price cap*
East	190,000	200,000
East Midlands	145,000	155,000
London	295,000	305,000
North East	115,000	125,000
North West	125,000	135,000
South East	225,000	235,000
South West	195,000	205,000
West Midlands	145,000	155,000
Yorkshire and Humber	130,000	140,000

The household annual income cap is set at £60,000 and applies across all regions in England.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether households which have defaulted on their mortgage payments in the last five months will be eligible for support under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [272454]

Margaret Beckett: To be eligible for Homeowners Mortgage Support, households need to have been making regular payments, but not necessarily in full, in agreement with their lender for at least five months. This demonstrates that the borrower is able to continue to make ongoing

payments at a reduced level before entering the scheme, and provides an opportunity for other forbearance options to be considered first. If a household has missed a payment or payments without the agreement of their lender, they can still become eligible by making regular payments in agreement with their lender for five months. These arrangements reflect the fact that Homeowners Mortgage Support is designed to help households experiencing a temporary reduction in their income. Other forms of assistance, such as Support for Mortgage Interest or the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, are available for households who have experienced a complete loss of income.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme in each of the next three years; and how many households are expected to participate. [272461]

Margaret Beckett: The Impact Assessment for Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) was published on Tuesday 21 April and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/mortgagesupportimpactassessment

We estimate that the total cost of HMS over eight years will be £44 million (present value). This is based on a central estimate that around 42,000 households could join HMS (assuming the participation of lenders accounting for 50 per cent. of the number of eligible households in three months and more mortgage arrears). If lenders representing 100 per cent. of eligible households in three months and more mortgage arrears offer the terms of HMS, then we estimate that up to 85,000 households could be helped by the support.

Information on the profile of the costs to Government in each of the eight years was given in response to a question from the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 919W.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1508W, on the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit, on what date the unit plans to publish the first summary of board discussions on its website. [273449]

Margaret Beckett: The NHPAU will be publishing summaries of Board discussions and outcomes of meetings on its website on Friday 8 May 2009. The published summaries will be for the period from February 2008 onwards. Summaries of future discussions will appear shortly after each monthly Board meeting and will appear on the NHPAU website.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1180-81W, on non-domestic rates: Greater London, if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance note on the sub-location concept. [272333]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the relevant section of the guidance note in the Library of the House.

Regeneration

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 37WS, on regeneration, if she will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between her Department and the European Commission on the financial corrections for the 1997 to 1999 programme period. [272336]

John Healey: The information requested is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 37WS, on regeneration, what financial irregularities resulted in the financial corrections confirmed by the European Commission. [272337]

John Healey: The irregularities that gave rise to the financial corrections confirmed by the European Commission included some failures to properly apply the relevant procurement directives; insufficient supporting documentation to justify the inclusion of certain project expenditure and examples of insufficient documentation to support the amounts or method of apportionment used in calculating overheads. There was no suggestion of fraud or impropriety.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to publish the final version of the South East Plan before the beginning of the restricted period outlined in the Cabinet Office guidance on announcements in an election period. [273990]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend published the South East Plan on 6 May 2008 together with a written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, column WS58.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made in the delivery of the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan; and if she will make a statement. [271581]

Margaret Beckett: Progress in the delivery of the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan is set out in the Thames Gateway annual report. The 2007-08 annual report was published in July 2008. The 2008-09 annual report will be published this summer.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many personal licences to sell alcohol are held. [273654]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The latest Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing bulletin shows that for the year ending March 2008 there were 338,900 personal licence holders in England and Wales, based on 97 per cent. returns from licensing authorities. A personal licence authorises an individual to supply or authorise the supply of alcohol in accordance with a premises licence or temporary event notice under the Licensing Act 2003.

Listed Buildings: Malvern St James School

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to announce his decision on the listing of the Edinburgh Sports Dome at Malvern St James School. [273658]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport will be making a decision shortly. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as one is reached.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what ceremonial formalities are observed on the return from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan of the remains of service personnel killed on active service; and if he will make a statement. [273656]

Mr. Quentin Davies: When the remains of Service personnel who lose their lives as a result of operations are returned to this country a formal repatriation ceremony is held.

These ceremonies are military and not governmental occasions. Such ceremonies are supported by an eight man Bearer party, usually drawn from the deceased's own regiment or service, and two buglers, all of whom are supervised by a senior ceremonial warrant officer. The ceremony, which is a service conducted by a military chaplain, is attended by a senior military representative, of at least two star rank, to convey the nation's respect.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops from the UK Overseas Territories are serving in Afghanistan. [272598]

Mr. Hutton: As at 1 March 2009 there are 10 known British Overseas Territories citizens who can be identified as being deployed to Afghanistan.

It is possible for personnel from British Overseas Territories to record their nationality as "British". As such, the figure stated above may be an under estimate of the total British Overseas Territories citizens deployed to Afghanistan.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the cost to the public purse of military operations in Afghanistan in the last two years. [273002]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD identifies the costs of operations in terms of the net additional costs it has incurred. The costs that would have been incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation, such as teaming exercises, are taken into account in arriving at the net figures.

The annual audited cost of operations in Afghanistan for the last two years is provided in the following table.

		£ million
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Resource costs	560	1,071
Capital costs	178	433
Total	738	1,504

The Spring Supplementary Estimates, published in February, set out the 2008-09 unaudited estimates, and these are provided in the following table. The final audited amounts are expected to be published in July 2009.

	£ million
	2008-09
Resource costs	1,710
Capital costs	849
Total	2,559

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the chain of command in Helmand province will be between US, UK and International Security Assistance Force forces following the United States' deployment of additional troops to the province; and if he will make a statement. [273714]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In response to a request from Commander ISAF, General David McKiernan, President Obama recently announced the deployment of an additional 17,000 US troops to Afghanistan to support the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, many of which will deploy to Helmand Province.

All ISAF forces, regardless of nationality, operate under the NATO chain of command. Therefore, UK forces in Helmand province will remain under the command of Task Force Helmand (TFH), who in turn are under the command of the International Security and Assistance Force, Regional Command (South).

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on psychometric testing of personnel due to be sent to combat zones to identify their vulnerability to combat stress; what response he has made to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [272852]

Mr. Kevan Jones: From time to time, the Department receives representations about the mental health services provided for members of the armed forces. I am not aware of any recent representations specifically on psychometric testing of personnel prior to deployment. The Department's evidence-based view is that such selection processes do not work and would be counter-productive.

Recent research is summarised in the King's Centre for Military Health Research "Ten Year Report" published in 2006 by the University of London and covering a decade's worth of research concerning the health of UK service personnel and veterans. This explains that selecting out individuals who might be at increased risk of developing mental health difficulties prior to recruitment or deployment is a flawed strategy because, whether one uses clinical interviews or questionnaire-based methods, it is impossible to distinguish reliably between those who will go on to experience psychological difficulties and those who will not. An ineffective selection programme would not just be costly and labour intensive but is likely to have adverse consequences both for individuals who would unnecessarily be prevented from deploying when doing so is part of their job, and for the operational efficiency of the armed forces by unnecessarily reducing the numbers of personnel available to carry out operational tasks.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to implement the recommendations in the Review of Defence Medical Services undertaken by the Healthcare Commission at the request of the Surgeon General. [273003]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Yes. The MOD is committed to meeting the Commission's recommendations, which recognise where we are already demonstrating best practice in delivering healthcare and will help the Defence Medical Services (DMS) to drive improvements. We are exploring with the Department of Health how best to take forward continuing external and independent examination of our medical services. We have already created our own defence medical inspector general, whose remit includes following the Commission's review with a wider internal review across the whole DMS and other appropriate Defence process owners.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the award of each of his Department's current contracts on *(a)* the UK employment market and *(b)* the number of jobs in businesses which (i) have bid for or secured such contracts and (ii) are in the supply chain for such contracts. [273124]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence's primary consideration whilst making procurement decisions is to ensure that we secure the best equipment available for our armed forces, and also to ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

The industrial implications of our procurement decisions are considered strategically within MOD in the context of the Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS), which promotes a sustainable UK defence industrial base.

Gulf War Syndrome

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has undertaken into the pathological basis of new iatrogenic diseases caused by chemicals including therapeutic agents recognised to modify the phenotype of human tissues in respect of illnesses identified in those who served in the Gulf War in 1990-91. [272833]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No projects have been undertaken to date. We are unaware of published peer reviewed evidence of new iatrogenic diseases caused by chemicals, including therapeutic agents in ill veterans who served in the Gulf in 1990-91. The Medical Research Council (MRC) provides the MOD with independent expert advice on its Gulf research programme. In 2003 the MRC carried out a review of published research into UK Gulf veterans' illness and the main recommendation was that research aimed at improving the long term health and well-being of Gulf veterans with persistent symptoms should take priority. A copy of the report is published on the MRC web site found at the following link;

www.mrc.ac.uk/Utilities/Documentrecord/index.htm?d=MRC002464.

A contract for research into possible ways of rehabilitating ill Gulf veterans has been awarded to a group at Cardiff University. The project involves close working with veterans and ex-service charities and is now in progress.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date he expects Nimrod aircraft to be fully operational. [273310]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the armed forces to the hon. Member for Moray (Mr Robertson), is the Defence in the UK Debate on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 478).

Royal Hospital Haslar

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the book value of the Royal Hospital Haslar site and *(b)* the anticipated annual maintenance cost of the vacated site. [265525]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The "existing use" value of the asset for Defence purposes was last estimated as £17 million in 2005. The current market value of the asset is different, but difficult to assess, given current market conditions. However, it is not Ministry of Defence practice to release assessments of market value, as to do so could influence the market and not serve the interests of taxpayers generally.

If the Haslar site were to be "mothballed" the estimated annual maintenance cost would be less than £1 million. However, the Department is planning a marketing campaign for this summer and is committed to finding a purchaser who can deliver a viable and sustainable future for the Haslar site.

To this end Defence Estates is working closely with Gosport borough council. In particular, we are keen to ensure that plans for the re-use of the site have regard to the historical setting of the listed buildings and grounds. An inquiry led by the Prince's Regeneration Trust last November examined the opportunities and potential. All proposals to acquire the site will be carefully evaluated, particularly as regards their approach towards conservation and heritage issues.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of priority his Department gives to the completion of his Department's programme of work on the protection of critical infrastructure from flooding in relation to work on the implementation of the other recommendations of the Pitt Report. [273132]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In undertaking to act on every one of his recommendations, the Government endorsed the importance given to this area of work by Sir Michael Pitt. While the Government will give a fuller progress report in June on all that we have done since we published our action plan on 17 December 2008, I have provided some examples of what has been done to protect critical infrastructure from flooding.

The energy sector began work on improving resilience to flooding in the autumn of 2007, with an initial focus on electricity substations being extended to include both gas and oil installations. The Energy Networks Association, working with the Government and the electricity industry, has produced a report on the steps that can be taken to further safeguard electricity substations. The matter is being given full consideration at present with the industry regulator in the scope of the current distribution companies' price review.

In addition, work has been put in place to take forward lessons from the 2007 floods in relation to water companies. All companies have considered resilience in their draft business plans, which were submitted to Ofwat in August. The plans vary, as expected, reflecting the size of the company and the specific challenges presented by their locations. In total, almost £1 billion of investment has been proposed to increase resilience.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress the Environment Agency has made on establishing the system for opting-out of flood warnings recommended by the Pitt Report. [273134]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency systematically registers customers with its free flood warning service using publicly available information (names, addresses and telephone numbers). Customers are given the opportunity to opt out of this service. The Environment Agency pre-registered 55,605 new customers and only 521 customers chose to opt out of this service, giving an overall retention rate of 99 per cent.

For the Environment Agency to provide a full opt out flood warning service it needs access to ex-directory information. Since the publication of the Pitt Review, the Environment Agency has re-instated negotiations with the telecommunications companies holding ex-directory data. The Environment Agency is working hard to move to a fully opt out flood warning service by the end of 2009.

Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the 15 urgent recommendations of the Pitt Review into the summer floods of 2007 have been implemented; and which ones are yet to be implemented. [272890]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government began to implement Sir Michael's Pitt's urgent interim recommendations in December 2007. In April 2008, Sir Michael noted that strong progress had been made against the majority of these recommendations, and that further work was needed in some areas, which has since been continuing.

The Government's next progress report, which will be published this June, will enable the public and the House to see what stage of implementation all outstanding recommendations have reached.

Inland Waterways

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of British Waterways' canals have *(a)* leakage and *(b)* erosion. [273300]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is impossible to quantify leakage in this way. Where leaks occur, they can be potentially very serious and lead to breaches. British Waterways therefore acts quickly to plug any leaks when they are identified. Some seepage is, however, natural on both canals and rivers. With regard to erosion, canals are by definition man-made, engineered structures which do not suffer from erosion—as opposed to wear and tear—in the same way as rivers. This is in part due to the materials used in their construction, the slower flow of water and the strict speed limit imposed on waterway craft.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures British Waterways use to record the number of water vehicles using its canals. [273304]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways (BW) keep a register of licensed boats. All boats on its waterways must have a licence. BW patrols the waterways regularly to check for unlicensed boats. It also publishes an 'online boat checker' where members of the public can check whether a particular boat has a valid licence.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of narrowboats which used British Waterways' canals in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2006-07. [273305]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways does not separate narrowboats from other types of boats in its regular statistics. The total number of boats licensed in each of these years is as follows:

(a) 32,566

(b) 30,905

Note:

Figures provided by British Waterways

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Europe: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what posts in each UK mission in Europe have been *(a)* downgraded and *(b)* ended in each financial year since 2000. [271450]

David Miliband: For the period 2000-01 to 2002-03 data are not held centrally and it would involve disproportionate cost to obtain it from across the network.

Limited information is available centrally for the period up to 2006-07.

	Post	*Downgraded*		*Cut*
		From	*To*	
2000-01 to 2002-03	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available
2003-04	—	—	—	112 UK staff (no further data available)
2004-05	—	—	—	19 UK staff (no further data available)
2005-06	—	—	—	33 UK staff (no further data available)
2006-07[1]	Ankara	—	—	C4
	Berlin	—	—	B3,A2
	Berne	—	—	B3
	Brussels	SMS2	SMS1	D6x2; C4x9; B3; A2x3
		D7	D6	—
	Dublin	SMS3	SMS2	C4
	Kyiv	SMS1	D7	—
	Lille	SMS1	D7	—
	Luxembourg	—	—	A2
	Madrid	—	—	C4
	Munich	C4	B3	—
	Oslo	—	—	A2
	Paris	SMS1	D7	A2
	Pristina	—	—	C4
	Rome	SMS3	SMS2	C4x2
	Stockholm	—	—	C4
	Valletta	SMS2	SMS1	B3
		C4	B3	—
	Vienna	—	—	B3; A2
2007-08	Ankara	—	—	LEVx2
	Belgrade	—	—	LEIII; LEVx2
	Berlin	—	—	D6; LEI; LEII; LEIII; LEIVx2; LEVx4
	Bucharest	—	—	LEV
	Copenhagen	—	—	B3
	Gibraltar	—	—	A2; B3
	Istanbul	—	—	B3; LEV
	Kyiv	—	—	LEIII; LEIV; LEVx2
	Lille	LEII	LEIII	—
	Lisbon	SMS2	SMS1	—

	Post	Downgraded		Cut
		From	To	
	Madrid	—	—	C4; LEIII; LEV
	Milan	—	—	C5; LEIII; LEVx1.75
	Munich	—	—	C4
	Paris	—	—	SMS1;C4;B3
	Prague	—	—	LEV
	Skopje	—	—	LEII
	Sofia	—	—	LEV
	Rome	LEII	LEIII	D6x2; LEIII; LEIV LEVx2
	The Hague	—	—	A2; C4
	Valletta	—	—	C4
	Warsaw	—	—	LEI; LEII; LEIIIx2; LEVx3
2008-09	Amsterdam	—	—	B3; C5
	Athens	SMS2	SMS1	C4; B3; A2
	Belgrade	—	—	LEV
	Berlin	—	—	D6x2; C5; C4x2; LEII; LEII (part-time); LEIIIx4; LEV
	Berne	—	—	A2; B3
	Bratislava	—	—	D6; C4; A2
	Brussels	—	—	D7; C5; C4; B3; A2
	Bucharest	SMS1	D6	D6; C4; A2
	Copenhagen	SMS2	SMS1	C4; LEIV
		D7	D6	—
	Dublin	—	—	D6; LEV
	Gibraltar	C4	B3	—
	Istanbul	D6	C4	—
	Kyiv	SMS1	D7	C4; LEV
	Lisbon	—	—	C4; B3
	Ljubljana	—	—	D6; A2
	Madrid	—	—	D6; B3; A2; LEIIx2
	Munich	SMS1	C.5	—
	Nicosia	SMS1	D7	C4
	Paris	SMS2	SMS1	D6x3; B3x2; A2
	Riga	D6	C4	B3
	Rome	—	—	B3; LEII
	Sarajevo	SMS2	SMS1	D6
	Skopje	—	—	LEVx2
	Sofia	—	—	C4
	Stockholm	—	—	B3
	The Hague	—	—	D6; B3
	Tirana	—	—	A2
	Valletta	SMS1	D7	A2; LEV
	Vienna	—	—	LEII; LEIIIx2; LEIVx2; LEVx8[2]
	Vilnius	—	—	D6
	Warsaw	—	—	LEII; LEIIIx4; LEIVx5; LEV x4[2]
	Zagreb	SMS2	SMS1	LEIIIx 1.5

[1] Data not available for locally employed staff.
[2] Cut positions in Vienna and Warsaw include staff who transferred to facilities management provider, Interserve, in the first phase of the North West Europe Facilities Management Project in December 2008. In Vienna the following staff transferred to Interserve: LEII, LEIII (x2), LEIV (x2), LEV (x8). In Warsaw the following staff numbers transferred to Interserve: LEII, LEIII (x4), LEIV (x4) and LEV (x3).

In addition to permanent cuts to expenditure such as the Europe Zero Based Review the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has also downgraded and cut a number of UK based and locally engaged positions in Europe in order to reflect the changing patterns of carrying out business in Europe, and in order to generate resource for redeployment to emerging priorities elsewhere. These data reflect this.

These downgraded and ended posts have contributed to wider efficiency programmes across Europe which will continue during the current CSR period.

The data provided relate to Foreign and Commonwealth Office positions in Europe funded by Europe Directorate. These make up the significant majority of positions that have been downgraded or cut. Information is not held centrally for the small number of non-Europe Directorate-funded positions that have also been downgraded or ended.

Kenya: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the estimated costs to the Kenyan government of arrangements to prosecute piracy suspects; and what proportion of those costs will be met by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other sources outside Kenya. [272918]

David Miliband: We have received no reports on the estimated cost to the Kenyan government of arrangements to prosecute piracy suspects. The UK and its partners are willing to consider support in response to requests from Kenya, such as the package of priority assistance measures identified by the European Commission during their recent scoping mission to Kenya.

The proposed assistance would be targeted at the prosecution, police, judicial and prison services, particularly focusing on capacity and logistical shortfalls associated with the trials and detention of piracy suspects. An indicative amount of €1.74 million has been proposed, using the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Kenya as the implementing partner. We understand that this project is likely to be fully funded by the Commission.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1281W, on Somalia: piracy, what the outcome was of the visit by the EU delegation to Kenya to assess the level of support that the Kenyan authorities require in the prosecution of pirates; and what needs were identified. [273088]

David Miliband: A European Commission delegation carried out a scoping mission in Kenya from 29 March 2009 to 3 April 2009. This resulted in a package of priority assistance measures being identified to support the efforts of the Kenyan authorities. The proposed assistance would be targeted at the prosecution, police, judicial and prison services, particularly focusing on capacity and logistical shortfalls associated with the trial and detention of piracy suspects. An indicative amount of €1.74 million has been proposed, using the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Kenya as the implementing partner. We understand that this project is likely to be fully funded by the Commission, which the Government very much welcome as appropriate recognition for the efforts being made by the Kenyan government.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the political situation in Kenya and *(b)* progress in implementing the National Accord in that country. [272917]

David Miliband: I am very concerned by the political situation in Kenya, particularly the current disputes between the coalition partners and the detrimental impact this is having on implementation of the National Accord. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to President Kibaki and Prime Minister Odinga on 9 April 2009 to relay our concerns and to encourage them to intensify their efforts to deliver reforms. He underlined that unless more rapid progress was made on constitutional and electoral reforms, on improving security and on addressing corruption and impunity, there was a serious risk of a return to violence in Kenya. The Government will continue to work with the Kenyan government and our international partners to promote full delivery of the National Accord, providing practical and financial assistance where we can.

Russia: BBC External Services

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will commission an independent investigation into the administration and operations of the BBC Russia Service. [271604]

Caroline Flint: The BBC World Service is editorially, operationally and managerially independent of the Government, as is stated in the Broadcasting Agreement between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the BBC for the provision of the BBC World Service.

The BBC World's service's operation in Russia provide the Russian audience with trusted, high quality current affairs programmes and new media services. The FCO is satisfied that the recent changes to the service are being properly managed and reviewed in the normal process of evaluation within the BBC World Service.

We will therefore not call for an investigation into the BBC Russia service.

HEALTH

Cross-Government Obesity Unit

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members of the Cross-Government Obesity Unit are. [273006]

Dawn Primarolo: Will Cavendish, (Department of Health) and Anne Jackson (Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)) are the Joint Directors responsible for the Cross-Government Obesity Unit

(CGOU). Clara Swinson (Department of Health) is the deputy director. The CGOU is jointly funded and staffed by the Department and DCSF.

Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what choice is statutorily available to users of *(a)* mental health services and *(b)* health services for physical illness on the types of services provided to them; and if he will make a statement. [270571]

Phil Hope: The NHS Constitution includes a right to "make choices about your NHS care. The options available will develop over time and depend on your individual need." The first area where this has become a legal right is elective care where since 1 April 2009 patients have had a legal right to choose the organisation that provides their treatment when they are referred for their first out-patient appointment with a service led by consultants. This applies to the majority of patients including those with mental health problems. Those detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 are excluded. As this right covers only elective care, mental health services are not included.

As stated in the handbook to the NHS Constitution the right to choose will develop as choice is extended into other areas.

Health Services: Non-Profit-Making Associations

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to primary care trusts in respect of commissioning *(a)* dental and *(b)* other health services from (i) social enterprises, (ii) charities and (iii) voluntary groups; and if he will make a statement. [272791]

Phil Hope: Guidance has been issued to primary care trusts on commissioning dental services and many other health services. Copies of all commissioning guidance issued by the Department are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/AdvanceSearchResult/index.htm?searchTerms=PCT+guidance

In line with the approach of the world class commissioning programme, guidance focuses on health outcomes, rather than which provider it should be commissioned from. The Department is also working with the NHS Alliance to deliver a series of workshops to general practitioners and practice staff on social enterprise and the benefits that it can bring to patients receiving primary care services. Furthermore, the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning is a Government-backed training initiative to help develop public sector commissioners' skills, expertise and understanding of the third sector that aims to ensure that both third sector organisations and commissioners get the best results for people using public services.

Learning Disability: Health Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on levels of funding for services for people with learning disabilities. [271666]

Phil Hope: The following representations have been received on the levels of funding for services for people with learning disabilities.

A report by the Learning Disability Coalition Future expenditure on social care for people with learning disabilities highlighting issues affecting learning disability services in the next few years.

Between January and March 2009, the Department received five parliamentary questions from the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) about future funding plans for adults with learning disabilities.

In January 2009, the hon. Member for Leeds, North-West (Greg Mulholland) asked what guidance was given to local authorities to ensure that their resource allocation systems achieve a fair and effective allocation of resources for people with learning disabilities.

In March 2009 the right hon. Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) asked about the basis for calculating the sum to be transferred from his Department to local authorities when they take responsibility for support for learning disabled people.

Departmental officials have a regular discourse with the Learning Disability Coalition. The last meeting took place last week to discuss their concerns about levels of funding for learning disability services and implementation of the cross-Government strategy on learning disabilities, 'Valuing People Now'.

HM Treasury have yet to announce the timing of the next spending review and make available the associated guidance. Within the remit given to us by the guidance, the Department plans to make the best possible case for adequate funding for all adults with social care needs—including those with a learning disability—based on available data and evidence.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 31 March 2009 concerning a constituent. [271803]

Ann Keen: A reply was issued to my hon. Friend on 6 May 2009.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions electro-convulsive therapy was administered to a mental health patient *(a)* in total and *(b)* as part of compulsory treatment in each of the last five years. [271724]

Phil Hope: The data requested on occasions when electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) has been administered to a mental health patient in total are in the following table.

Total and average number of procedures for electro-convulsive treatment per patient where the relevant operative procedure code (OPCS-4 code= A83) recorded in either main or in any of the secondary operative procedure fields 2003-04 to 2007-08, England

	Total Procedures	Patient count	Average procedures per patient
2003-04	12,709	1,814	7.0
2004-05	10,822	1,515	7.1
2005-06	9,173	1,211	7.6
2006-07	8,803	1,069	8.2
2007-08	7,399	878	8.4

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, Outpatients, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

We do not have the data requested about ECT and compulsory treatment. However, patients who are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 cannot generally be given ECT without their consent, unless it is authorised by a Second Opinion Appointed Doctor (SOAD). The following table shows the number of second opinion requests in England and Wales for ECT received in each calendar year followed by the percentage of those requests that resulted in the Second Opinion Appointed Doctor issuing a statutory certificate authorising ECT.

We do not know how many of these allocations were acted on.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of requests for ECT second opinions	1,803	1,833	1,871	1,778	1,703
Percentage of requests where SOAD certified treatment	86	89	88	88	76

Source:
The Care Quality Commission

Obesity

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's report Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On, which 20 areas of the country the National Support Team visited. [273809]

Phil Hope: Between December 2007 and April 2009, the Childhood Obesity National Support Team visited 21 areas. Information on which areas were visited is provided as follows:

Isle of Wight;
Redcar and Cleveland;
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan;
South of Tyne and Wear;
Barnsley;
South Staffordshire;
Sheffield;
Liverpool;
Leicester;
Newham;
Manchester;
Southwark;
Cornwall;
City and Hackney;
Walsall;
Lincolnshire;
Bristol;
East Kent;
West Essex;
East Lancashire; and
Islington.

Obesity: Children

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's report Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On, which 122 local authorities selected *(a)* one and *(b)* both of the child obesity indicators in their local area agreements. [273807]

Dawn Primarolo: Updated information on the number of local areas that have selected either one or both of the child obesity indicators in their local area agreements is provided in the following lists.

National Indicator 55: Obesity among primary school age children in reception year

Bristol
Croydon
Havering
Hounslow[1]
Isle of Wight
Kensington and Chelsea[1]
Kent
Lambeth
Lancashire
Lewisham
Merton
North East Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire
Nottinghamshire
Portsmouth
Redcar and Cleveland
Rochdale
Salford[1]
Shropshire
South Gloucestershire
St. Helens
Sutton
Tameside
Wakefield
Westminster
Wiltshire
Wirral

[1] Indicates an area with both National Indicators.

National Indicator 56: Obesity among primary school age children in year 6:

Barnet
Barnsley
Bedford
Birmingham
Blackpool
Bournemouth
Bracknell Forest
Brent
Brighton and Hove
Buckinghamshire
Calderdale
Cambridgeshire
Camden
Central Bedfordshire
Cheshire East
Cheshire West and Chester
Coventry
Darlington
Derbyshire
Devon
Doncaster
Dorset
Dudley

Durham
East Riding of Yorkshire
Enfield
Essex
Gateshead
Greenwich
Hackney
Halton
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hampshire
Haringey
Herefordshire
Hertfordshire
Hounslow
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston upon Thames
Kirklees
Knowsley
Leicester
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Medway
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
Newham
Norfolk
North Somerset
North Yorkshire
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
Nottingham
Oldham
Oxfordshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Poole
Reading
Redbridge
Rotherham
Rutland
Salford
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
Slough
Solihull
Somerset
South Tyneside
Southampton
Southwark
Staffordshire
Stockport
Stockton
Stoke-on-Trent
Suffolk
Sunderland
Surrey
Swindon
Telford and Wrekin
Thurrock
Tower Hamlets
Trafford
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Warrington
Warwickshire
West Berkshire
Wigan
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wokingham
Wolverhampton
Worcestershire
York

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's publication Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On, which primary care trusts chose child obesity as a World Class Commissioning target. [273808]

Dawn Primarolo: A third of all primary care trusts (PCTs) chose childhood obesity as one of their health outcomes. The Department does not hold data on the measures selected by each PCT. The information is available on individual PCT websites.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 2 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, on Mr Hazem Abu Shaban. [271026]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 27 April 2009.

Vetting

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Central Authority passes on information it holds to the relevant authorities when individuals apply for jobs working in *(a)* the Passport Service, *(b)* the UK Border Agency, *(c)* her Department, *(d)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, *(e)* the Police Service as (i) civilian support and (ii) warranted constables, *(f)* the Criminal Records Bureau, *(g)* the Greater London Authority, *(h)* local authorities children's departments, *(i)* local authority finance departments, *(j)* local authority electoral administration offices, *(k)* local authority social services departments, *(l)* the Pension Service, *(m)* the Criminal Cases Review Commission, *(n)* the Prison Service, *(o)* the Court Service and *(p)* the Crown Prosecution Service are vetted for crimes committed outside the United Kingdom. [243143]

Mr. Malik: The United Kingdom Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records adds conviction information onto the Police National Computer (PNC) in relation to UK citizens where this has been provided by other countries. The PNC will also contain any information about crimes committed in the United Kingdom by foreign nationals.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign nationals working (i) as security guards in government buildings and departments, (ii) as police community support officers, (iii) in the Passport Service, (iv) in the UK Border Agency, (v) in her Department, (vi) in the Serious Organised Crime Agency, (vii) in the Police Service as (A) civilian support and (B) warranted constables, (viii) in the Criminal Records Bureau, (ix) for the Greater London Authority, (x) in local authorities children's departments, (xi) in local authority finance departments, (xii) in local authority electoral administration offices, (xiii) local authority social services departments, (xiv) in the Pension Service, (xv) in the Criminal Cases Review Commission, (xvi) in the Prison Service, (xvii) in the Court Service and (xviii) in the Crown Prosecution Service are vetted for crimes committed outside the United Kingdom. [243144]

Mr. Malik: For reasons of cost, I am only able to answer this question on behalf of the Home Office. It is Home Office policy to ensure that all recruits satisfy identity, background, right to work and unspent criminal conviction record checks including, for UK nationals, details of criminal convictions for recordable offences which have been notified to the UK authorities by either EU member states or through Interpol channels. This fully complies with the Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) issued by the Cabinet Office. In addition, using Home Office records, details are verified to ensure that any applicant has the right to work and that there are no integrity concerns. In addition, enhanced disclosures provided by the Criminal Records Bureau or Disclosure Scotland are required for those Home Office staff who work with children or vulnerable adults. We require information about both spent and unspent convictions for staff that are employed in a National Security Vetting (NSV) post.

When a foreign national seeks employment with the Home Office we seek to establish whether the individual has a criminal record in the UK as well as in their country of origin. It is not always possible to obtain this information from overseas. As set out in the Government Response to Sir Ian Magee's Review of Criminality Information published on 4 December 2008, we aim to improve the sharing of electronic information and to prioritise agreements on the sharing of criminality information for employment vetting and barring purposes with other EU countries.

Outside the EU we are taking a risk based approach to identify those countries that need to be a priority for information exchange for this purpose. However, in most cases where individuals have lived abroad during the preceding three years, if we cannot obtain a confident assessment about the absence of criminal records, the individual concerned will not be permitted to work in the Home Office and will be rejected on residency grounds.

Vetting: Maladministration

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the ethnicity of those people who have been incorrectly designated as having a criminal conviction by the Criminal Records Bureau since the Bureau's inception is; [262472]

(2) how many of those incorrectly designated as having a criminal conviction by the Criminal Records Bureau since the Bureau's inception have received compensation; and how much has been awarded in compensation. [262473]

Mr. Malik: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not capture the ethnicity of applicants applying for disclosures. This information is not relevant to any of the searches done against the police national computer (PNC) or other data sources.

The CRB operates a redress scheme in line with Cabinet Office guidelines. Where there is evidence of maladministration on the part of the bureau when processing a disclosure application, a consolatory payment is made to the applicant. Information regarding how many applicants have received a consolatory payment following an incorrect match to a record held on the PNC and how much was awarded is not available.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many new learning places he estimates will be created by implementation of the proposals in the Learning Revolution White Paper. [272757]

Mr. Simon: We are confident that the range of initiatives announced in The Learning Revolution White Paper will both increase the number of learning opportunities and help people access the many and varied kinds of learning that are already available. Adults want to learn in different ways—through structured classes and through libraries, museums, self-organised groups, membership organisations and on-line.

Our goal is that all adults are able to access a wide range of informal learning opportunities and that learning experiences are better joined-up so that people can pursue their interests. The "Learning Revolution" sets out proposals that will help achieve this goal, including increasing the availability of free and low cost spaces for learning, launching a £20 million transformation fund to reach out to new and different learners through partnership and innovation, setting up a support package for local learning champions and harnessing the potential of broadcasting and technology to support and enhance learning.

Apprentices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people began apprenticeships under the apprenticeship programme for 16 to 18-year-olds in *(a)* Cheshire and *(b)* England in 2008. [272680]

Mr. Simon: 1,400 16 to 18-year-olds started an apprenticeship in Cheshire in the 2007/08 academic year, the latest academic year for which we have full-year information. 107,000 16 to 18-year-olds started an apprenticeship in England in the 2007/08 academic year.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many young people aged between 16 and 18 years old have *(a)* started and *(b)* completed an apprenticeship under the apprenticeship programme since its inception; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of young people who have completed apprenticeships under the scheme who are in full-time work. [272681]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts and completions for 16 to 18-year-olds from 2007/08 back to 2003/04, the earliest year for which we have consistent data.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts and completions for 16 to 18-year-olds

	Level		
	Apprenticeships	*Advanced apprenticeships*	*All apprenticeships*
Apprenticeship starts for 16 to 18 year-olds			
2003/04	82,400	25,200	107,500
2004/05	86,900	25,700	112,600
2005/06	76,600	22,400	99,000
2006/07	80,300	24,800	105,100
2007/08	81,500	25,500	107,000
Apprenticeship framework completions for 16 to 18-year-olds			
2003/04	20,400	8,600	29,100
2004/05	30,100	9,700	39,800
2005/06	44,600	13,900	58,500
2006/07	49,700	15,500	65,200
2007/08	46,800	16,200	63,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Advanced apprenticeships starts include a small number of higher level apprenticeships from 2006/07 onwards.
3. Programme-led apprenticeships recorded in WBL ILR returns are included in the above figures.
4. Age is based on age at start of course.

Source:
WBL ILR

Information on the destination of apprentices upon completion of their apprenticeship is not readily available. This type of information will in future be collected using the Framework for Excellence learner destination survey with the first results for all Further Education Colleges and work based learning providers available later in 2009.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Apprentices: East Midlands

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people commenced level 2 apprenticeships in *(a)* Lincolnshire and *(b)* the East Midlands in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [274041]

Mr. Simon: The table shows the number of apprenticeship (Level 2) starts in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, from 2005/06 to 2007/08.

Number of apprenticeship starts in Lincolnshire, and the East Midlands, from 2005/06 to 2007/08

Area	*Academic year*	*Apprenticeship starts*
Lincolnshire LA	2005/06	1,800
	2006/07	1,900
	2007/08	2,200
East Midlands region	2005/06	11,900
	2006/07	11,800
	2007/08	14,500

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Area is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record (WBL ILR).

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people commenced level 3 apprenticeships in *(a)* Lincolnshire and *(b)* the East Midlands in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [274042]

Mr. Simon: The table shows the number of advanced apprenticeship (level 3) starts in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, from 2005/06 to 2007/08.

Number of advanced apprenticeship starts in Lincolnshire, and the East Midlands, from 2005/06 to 2007/08

Area	*Academic year*	*Advanced apprenticeship starts*
Lincolnshire LA	2005/06	800
	2006/07	900
	2007/08	1,200
East Midlands region	2005/06	5,000
	2006/07	5,600
	2007/08	7,200

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Advanced apprenticeship starts include a small number of higher level apprenticeships from 2006/07 onwards.
3. Area is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record (WBL ILR)

The Government are committed to rebuilding Apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Basic Skills

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 skills courses cost the *(a)* most and *(b)* least per trainee. [274064]

Mr. Simon: The majority of the public investment in adult skills continues to be directed towards the priority areas that will lead to sustainable employment. Courses in these areas receive a higher level of public subsidy—some courses, such as all programmes for learners aged under 19 and first full level 2 qualifications (other than apprenticeships) for adults are fully-funded, whereas for others the funding is reduced as the individual learner or employer is expected to make a contribution.

Courses vary considerably, ranging from Apprenticeship programmes which are delivered over several years and incorporate a bundle of qualifications (usually a technical certificate, NVQ, key skills, employment rights and responsibilities and any other mandatory requirements set by the relevant sector body) to individual units of qualifications which can be delivered in a single day.

The most costly courses are advanced apprenticeships which are fully funded for learners aged under 19 and which range in cost from £15,700 to £17,300. The 10 advanced apprenticeships requiring the greatest outlay are:

Farriery
Process Technology
Transport Engineering and Maintenance
Water Industry
Engineering
Engineering Construction
Electricity Industry
Building Services Engineering Technicians
Metals Industry
Polymer Processing and Signmaking.

The least costly courses relate to 15 individual units of qualifications funded through Train to Gain and are:

Building the Team
Business Help and Support
Business Markets and customers
Business Opportunities and Risks
Introduction to Leadership
Leading a Team Effectively
Manage Finance in a Business
Managing Creativity and Innovation in the Workplace
Negotiation in Business
Planning in Business
Resources and infrastructure within a business
Solving Problems and Making Decisions
The skills needed to run a business
What is Enterprise?
Working with costs and budgets

The costs of these courses are around £80.

Birmingham City University: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding Birmingham City university was allocated from the Widening Participation fund in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; and for what purpose such funds were allocated in each such year. [274043]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) allocated to Birmingham City university £4,534,752 in 2005/06, £5,722,098 in 2006/07 and £5,122,524 in 2007/08 for widening participation. This element of HEFCE's institutional grant is intended to recognise the additional costs of recruiting and supporting students from disadvantaged and non-traditional backgrounds and disabled students. Allocations are based on the profile of the university's student population.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of Building Colleges for the Future funding applications which *(a)* involve land sales and *(b)* are part of local regeneration programmes. [273068]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many projects that had been approved in principle under the Building Colleges for the Future programme will receive funds from the £300 million allocated to the programme in the 2009 Budget. [274040]

Mr. Simon: Budget 2009 announced that an additional £300 million of capital funding will be made available in the current spending round and will allow a limited number of projects to start within this spending review period. Capital investment between 2007-08 and 2010-11 will total £2.6 billion on top of the £2 billion invested between 1997-98 and 2007-08.

It is not possible to say the exact number of, or the names of the specific projects, that will be funded as the selection of projects will be based on objective criteria that the LSC is developing in consultation with the sector. The LSC plan to confirm which projects will be taken forward during this spending review period at the beginning of the summer.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's policy is on the practice of holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. [268533]

Mr. Simon: The Department believes that away days can be beneficial and necessary for staff development, team building and planning to help deliver the Department's plans and objectives.

The organisation of away days outside the Department's buildings will be based on sound planning and, where accommodation costs and other charges are involved, our policies on appropriateness and value for money.

Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent estimate he has made of his Department's capital expenditure assigned to *(a)* further and *(b)* higher education in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [274054]

Mr. Simon: Budget 2009 announced additional capital funds for further education of more than £300 million for this spending review period (2009-10 and 10-11), with the total FE capital budget for 2009-10 being £827.6 million, and in 2010-11 being £448.1 million. This budget will cover expenditure on projects which have already been approved as well as new projects.

Budgeted capital spend for HE is £1,215.5 million in 2009-10 and £713.5 million in 2010-11.

These figures take into account the planned expenditure brought forward from 2010-11 as part of the fiscal stimulus package announced in the pre-Budget report.

Further Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many colleges were on the register of education and training providers in each year since 1997; [273069]

(2) how many new colleges registered with his Department and its predecessors as education and training providers in each year since 1997; [273070]

(3) how many further education colleges registered with his Department and its predecessors closed in each year since 1997. [273071]

Mr. Simon: The Register of Education and Training Providers was established in 2005 to support the Home Office in tackling immigration abuse in the education sector. This was absorbed into the new UK Border Agency's (UKBA) Register of Sponsors on 30 March 2009 which will carry out a similar role.

All statutory further education (FE) colleges (including sixth form colleges) were included on the Register during its years of operation. The figures are provided at Annex A.

The Register also held approximately 15,000 other education and training providers at the time it ceased operations. Any education or training provider is free to call itself a college and without disproportionate expense the number using that descriptor for their activities cannot be identified.

The number of new statutory further education (FE) colleges (including sixth form colleges) created by the Department and its predecessors since 1997 is provided at Annex B.

The number of statutory further education (FE) colleges (including sixth form colleges) closed by the Department and its predecessors since 1997 is also provided at Annex C.

Annex A: Total statutory further education colleges (including sixth form colleges) on register

Year beginning	*Number*
2005	392
2006	390
2007	385
2008	377
2009	372

Annex B: Statutory further education colleges (including sixth form colleges) created since 1997

Date	*Number*
1997	0
1998	1
1999	3
2000	1
2001	3
2002	2
2003	1
2004	0
2005	2
2006	0
2007	0
2008	2
2009	3
Total	18

Note:
In all but three instances, the colleges crated were as a result of merger with other colleges.

Annex C: Statutory further education colleges (including sixth form colleges) closed since 1997

Date	*Number*
1997	4
1998	7
1999	10
2000	10
2001	9
2002	10
2003	7

Annex C. Statutory further education colleges (including sixth form colleges) closed since 1997

Date	Number
2004	3
2005	4
2006	5
2007	8
2008	7
2009	8
Total	92

Note:
In all but one instance, the colleges crated were as a result of merger with other colleges.

Further Education: Assessments

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of courses leading to *(a)* a higher national diploma qualification, *(b)* a higher national certificate qualification and *(c)* a foundation degree were taught in further education colleges in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [274158]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information regarding students studying for higher national diplomas (HND), higher national certificates (HNC) and foundation degrees in further education colleges and higher education institutions is given in the following table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Enrolments[1] to HND, HNC and foundation degree courses by type of institution—English further education colleges and higher education institutions academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08[2]

Level of study	2006/07			2007/08		
	FEC	Total FEC and HEI	Percentage FEC	FEC	Total FEC and HEI	Percentage FEC
Higher National Diploma	13,195	28,455	46	12,295	25,490	48
Higher National Certificate	11,775	20,255	58	10,190	18,780	54
Foundation Degree	14,865	62,990	24	18,055	77,175	23

[1] Covers enrolments from all domiciles to both full-time and part-time courses.
[2] FEC figures for the 2007/08 academic year are provisional. Final data are available in January 2010.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five and proportions are based on unrounded figures. FEC figures are on a DIUS whole year count basis and HEI figures are on a HESA standard registration population.
Source:
FEC figures from the LSC Individualised Learner Record (ILR). HEI figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Learning and Skills Council: Reorganisation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent progress has been made on the reallocation of responsibilities of the Learning and Skills Council; and if he will make a statement. [273396]

Mr. Simon: We have made good progress with the transfer of functions to local authorities, the Young People's Learning Agency and to the Skills Funding Agency. We are on track to implement shadow arrangements by September 2009 ahead of the formal transfer in April 2010. The new arrangements are designed to deliver better and more focused services for young people, adults and business.

The changes are intended to allow local authorities to take a clear lead on the integrated delivery of all children's services from birth to 19, including supporting the rise of the participation age to 19. Post-19, a new Skills Funding Agency will take up the challenge of delivering on our 2020 skills ambitions (as set out in the Leitch Review) by leading a demand-led system delivering a range of skills training at a time and place that suits both learners and employers.

The staffing structure (including staff numbers and roles) and locations for both the new agencies and local authorities have been confirmed and communicated to LSC staff.

This has allowed the LSC to take forward the appropriate HR processes to establish shadow structures by September 2009. On the same timeline, the recruitment processes for the YPLA chair and chief executive and the chief executive of Skills Funding began in April. We have already established the National Apprenticeships Service that will see a radical change in driving up demand for and delivery of

apprenticeships to young people and adults. The "Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning" Bill, which contains the draft clauses that will underpin the Machinery of Government reforms, is progressing through Parliament having already concluded Commons Committee in April.

Qualifications

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which countries do not reciprocally recognise qualifications in skills training and apprenticeships funded by his Department. [274068]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not hold this specific information. However from a European perspective, in most member states certain professions are regulated and the EU directive on professional recognition requires authorities which give access to the profession to take account of qualifications gained elsewhere within Europe.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Development Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the Government's official development assistance finding was met by each relevant department in each year since 2007; what proportion is expected to be met by each relevant department in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [272363]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A summary of the make-up of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2007 and 2008 was published in March in the DFID Statistical Release "Provisional UK Official Development Assistance as a proportion of Gross National Income, 2008" available on the DFID website (www.dfid.gov.uk). A summary is provided in the following table.

Figures for 2009 and 2010 are not yet available.

Departmental breakdown of UK official development assistance

	Out-turn 2007	*Percentage Provisional 2008*
Department for International Development	104	88
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	3	2
Ministry of Defence	0	1
CDC net investment	-10	3
Debt relief	0	4
Other	2	1

JUSTICE

Electoral Register: Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Stroud of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 951-2W, on financial services: electoral register, what the timetable is for the consultation. [273345]

Mr. Wills: As mentioned by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Thomas) to the question asked on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 951-52W, by my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew), the Government are committed to holding a public consultation to establish how removing the provisions that govern the edited register would impact not just on individuals but the economy as a whole.

The exact timing of the consultation has not yet been finalised but it is our intention to launch it shortly. The consultation will enable the Government to build a firmer evidence base about the advantages and disadvantages of the edited register and consider the way forward on the basis of the responses received.

Prisons: Discipline

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers in England and Wales are *(a)* riot trained and *(b)* qualified to act as Tornado support; and at which prisons they are located. [272829]

Mr. Hanson: On 1 May a total of 2,964 prison officers were trained to Control and Restraint Advance Level. These prison officers are qualified to act as Tornado support and are located at 108 establishments throughout England and Wales.

Prisons: Smoking

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who smoke were sharing cells with non-smokers on 1 January 2009. [272828]

Mr. Hanson: Under the terms of Prison Service Instruction 9/2007, which is available in the Library of the House, prisoners who are non-smokers must not be required to share a cell with smokers who are actively smoking. The status of a prisoner as a smoker or non-smoker should be established as part of reception procedures. Thereafter, arrangements must be made to place non-smokers and smokers in separate accommodation.

Occasionally it may be necessary to locate a smoker and a non-smoker together temporarily when there is no other accommodation available. The smoker should not be actively smoking in the cell and will be offered aids to help them refrain. There are no formal arrangements for recording this centrally, although it would normally be recorded on the individual prisoner's history sheet. Information as to the number of smokers and non-smokers sharing cells on any given date could be obtained only by examining the record of every prisoner in custody at the time, at disproportionate cost.

Reparation by Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* votes have been recorded on the Community Payback website since its inception. [272824]

Mr. Hanson: The Community Payback campaign aims to raise awareness of Community Payback by inviting members of the public to vote for unpaid work to be completed by offenders in their area.

User information is held by Directgov:

www.direct.gov.uk

The total number of visitors to the site, number of votes received online and via local pioneer areas will be available in June. Once available, I will write to the hon. Member and place in the Library of House.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* advertising in all media and *(b)* related communications and consultancy services on the promotion of its Community Payback initiative, broken down by category of expenditure. [272825]

Mr. Hanson: The Community Payback campaign aims to raise awareness of Community Payback by inviting members of the public to vote for unpaid work to be completed by offenders in their area.

Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice, £630,000 has been spent on advertising Community Payback across 59 pioneer areas in England and Wales in March/April 2009. Funding was provided by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice incurred no costs.

In 2007-08 55,771 people successfully completed community payback sentences. This amounts to over 8 million hours of labour, which was used to benefit the community.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Leader of the House if she will request from the trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund a report on the degree to which the pooled fund has participated in stock lending in the last 12 months. [273655]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 966W and 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 43W.

The Trustees are required from time-to-time to consult the Leader of the House on a Statement of Investment Principles (SIP). I expect the Leader to receive a revised SIP from the Trustees later this year.

I also understand that the Trustees will be considering shortly the draft of the 2009 PCPF Annual Review, which is sent to all members of the PCPF. It will be proposed for the Trustees' consideration that the Review should include an article on stock lending with details of the amount of stock being lent.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on furniture for departmental buildings in each of the last five years. [265395]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General expenditure on furniture for departmental buildings in the last five years is as follows:

	Cost (£)
2003-04	4,454
2004-05	25,096
2005-06	16,995
2006-07	0
2007-08	2,384

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of charges for priority security checks on the level of security at UK airports. [273192]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The introduction of charges for priority security checks is a decision for individual airports and airlines to make. Such a decision will not impact on the level of security in place at UK airports. The required security standards set by the Department for Transport apply equally to all passengers.

Aviation: Cyprus

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* scheduled and *(b)* inclusive tour flights there were from British airports to (i) Cyprus, (ii) Ireland and (iii) Austria in each of the last five years. [272567]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Flights services are defined as scheduled or charter; inclusive tour flights are not separately identified.

The tables show the number of scheduled and charter flights departing from British airports to Cyprus, Ireland and Austria in each of the last five years.

Table 1. Scheduled flights from British airports to Cyprus, Ireland and Austria

	Cyprus	*Ireland*	*Thousand Austria*
2004	3.1	52.2	6.5
2005	3.6	54.6	6.5
2006	3.3	52.2	6.1
2007	2.9	52.9	6.5
2008	3.6	54.9	6.3

Source:
DFT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

Table 2. Charter flights from British airports to Cyprus, Ireland and Austria

	Cyprus	*Ireland*	*Thousand Austria*
2004	3.9	0.1	1.2
2005	4.2	0.1	1.3
2006	4.4	0.2	1.2
2007	4.7	0.2	1.1
2008	4.0	0.2	1.1

Source:
DFT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

Departmental Public Relations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the remit of his Department's communication directorate is; how many people were employed in this directorate in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and what the budget for the directorate was in each such year. [273986]

Mr. Hoon: The role of the Department's Communication Directorate is set out in chapter 11 (page 177) of the Department's Annual Report 2008, Command Paper 7395, and available from TSO and the Department's website

www.dft.gov.uk.

The average number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff employed by the Department in the Communication Directorate and its net administration resource is set out in the following table.

	Communication Directorate		
	2007-08[1]	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*[2]
Staff FTE	69.8	65.5	63.7
Net resource (£000)	5,754	5,490[3]	5,310

[1] Average staff and resource outturn for the year.
[2] Staff employed and resource budget as at 1 April 2009.
[3] 2008-09 is provisional resource outturn and subject to audit.

Driving Under Influence: Drugs

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal road traffic accidents involved a person *(a)* whose driving ability was impaired by illegal drugs and *(b)* who tested positive for illegal drugs in each of the last five years. [273811]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of fatal road accidents where the contributory factor 'impaired by drugs' was reported by the police officer at the scene of the accident are given in the table:

	Fatal accidents[1]
2005	50
2006	51
2007	64

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported

Information on contributory factors is only available from 2005. It is not possible to distinguish whether illegal or medicinal drugs were involved.

Information on whether a person involved in a fatal road accident tested positive for illegal drugs is not available.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Field Impairment Test in determining whether a person is fit to drive after taking illegal drugs; [273812]

(2) whether his Department has commissioned studies of the effectiveness of roadside drug testing in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [273813]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent assessment of Field Impairment Testing is in the Department's Road Safety Research Report No. 63—Monitoring the Effectiveness of UK Field Impairment Tests which was published in April 2006. It is available on-line at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research.

The Department has not commissioned any studies of roadside drug testing abroad. However, the EU's Rosita-2 project evaluated the usability and analytical reliability of roadside drug testing devices in several European countries and the USA. The project report is available online at

www.rosita.org.

It concluded that no device was considered sufficiently reliable in order to be recommended for roadside screening of drivers.

Driving: Licensing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria are used to establish whether the holder of a full UK driving licence is required to retake a driving test before the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency may accept an application to renew the licence. [273757]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not require a full driving licence holder to retake a driving test as a condition of renewing a driving licence unless they have been subject to medical restrictions, revocation of their entitlement under the terms of the 'New Drivers' Act or an order by a court of law to retake a driving test/extended driving test.

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who decided that his Department's communications directorate would gather information on those opposed to the planned expansion of Heathrow on environmental grounds; who decided that such information would be passed to the police; on what date each decision was made; and if he will make a statement. [273987]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport continually seeks to understand the views of all those with an interest in transport policy. The communications directorate contributes to this process by researching material in the public domain such as websites, press releases and editorial comment and through holding public consultations.

In advance of public events, the Department often liaises with the police to seek advice on how to ensure the safety of everyone attending be it staff or members of the public. The consultation on Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport involved public events at 12 locations. It is therefore entirely appropriate that the Department discussed safety arrangements with the relevant police forces as part of the planning for those events.

Railways: Franchises

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require rail franchises and concessions which are operated in part or in full by non-UK companies to allocate to their UK operations profits which accrue in respect of those operations. [272394]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Activities undertaken in the UK, including the operation of rail franchises and concessions, are subject to UK tax whether undertaken by UK or foreign operators. The UK already has in place legislation to prevent profits from such activities being artificially diverted abroad. This legislation is kept under review.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the replacement of train franchises by fixed fee operating agreements. [273988]

Paul Clark: Operating agreements with train operating companies may be considered when appropriate to discharge the Department for Transport's duty to ensure continuity of rail services.

This duty, under section 30 of the Railways Act 1993, allows action to be taken in a way which is affordable, delivers value for money and fits with the department's wider objectives.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclist deaths associated with a vehicular accident have occurred in respect of each type of vehicle in the last five years. [273995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of pedal cyclist fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain with each type of vehicle in the last five years is given in the table:

Number of pedal cyclist fatalities

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Single vehicle accidents					
No pedestrian	10	11	17	12	12
With pedestrian	0	2	0	0	0
Two vehicle accidents					
Pedal cycle	0	2	1	1	2
Motorcycle 50cc and under	0	0	0	0	0
Motorcycle over 50 cc	2	1	4	2	1
Car	61	61	71	78	62
Bus or coach	3	6	9	4	5
Light goods vehicle	2	8	7	8	12
Heavy goods vehicle	25	22	24	24	32
Any other vehicle[1]	2	1	3	2	4
All accidents with three or more vehicles	9	20	12	15	6
All accidents	114	134	148	146	136

[1] Includes other motor and non-motor vehicles.

TREASURY

Child Care Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what models of child care tax credit are being piloted through HM Revenue and Customs; when he expects the outcomes of such pilots to be available; and if he will publish the outcomes upon availability; [273814]

(2) what models of child care tax credit are being piloted through the Childcare Affordability Programme 2009; when he expects the outcomes of these pilots to be known; and if he will publish such outcomes. [273815]

Mr. Timms: HMRC will be piloting a new payment model for the childcare element of the working tax credit as part of the Childcare Affordability Programme 2009 (CAP09). As announced in PBR 2008, the model is concerned with making child care payments that more closely reflect child care costs at the time they were incurred. The pilot will run until April 2011 and the results will be published in the evaluation of the CAP09.

Crown Estate Commissioners: Pay

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of full-time staff employed by the Crown Estate in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland are paid less than £15,944 per annum. [273113]

Angela Eagle: The Crown Estate has 10 such employees, some 2.8 per cent. of the total workforce. All of these work in the South East of England, making up some 3per cent. of the workforce for this region.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the change in the rate each duty on alcohol was in each year since 1990; [273264]

(2) how much revenue from duties on alcohol has accrued to the Exchequer in each year since 1990. [273265]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs publishes alcohol duty rates and revenues on the UKTradeInfo website:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins

Members: Correspondence

John Bercow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 27 February 2009 from the hon. Member for Buckingham on Lloyds TSB's sale of Abbey Life Financial Advisers in 2000. [273193]

Angela Eagle: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 March 2009 from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean on the merger between Lloyds TSB and HBOS, reference FD1238. [273657]

Angela Eagle: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 31 March 2009 on the abolition of IR35 reference: 3/09551/2009. [273822]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Economic Secretary plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 25 February 2009 on Lloyds TSB Bank staff bonuses. [273823]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mortgages

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on consumer protection matters relating to the mortgage industry; and if he will make a statement. [273176]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Overseas Trade

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effects on variance in top levels of *(a)* income and *(b)* social taxes in OECD economies on UK competitiveness in those economies. [273659]

Angela Eagle: The Government are committed to maintaining the competitiveness of the UK. When comparing UK tax rates internationally we consider both the overall level and wider structure of taxation.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reasons no equality impact assessment was undertaken in respect of HM Revenue and Customs Workforce Change programme; [273238]

(2) whether an equality impact assessment has been carried out on the proposal to close HM Revenue and Customs' Shrewsbury office. [273327]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs undertook equality screening on all its proposals for rationalising its estate before publishing these for staff consultation.

Further equality screening on the proposals took place both during and following the staff consultation period to identify any additional adverse impacts requiring mitigating action.

The outcome of the further equality screening undertaken was included in the Impact Assessment published for each building scheduled for closure, including New Mayfield House, Shrewsbury. These impact assessments can be found on the HMRC Internet site at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/better-regulation/regional-reviews.htm

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans HM Revenue and Customs employees based in offices in Shropshire to be compulsorily relocated on closure of those offices; [273328]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to assist staff in Shrewsbury's HM Revenue and Customs office who have not secured alternative work by the date the office is due to close. [273331]

Mr. Timms: The expectation is that staff at the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Shrewsbury will commute to one of the offices HMRC is retaining, if it is within reasonable daily travel for them. For those unable to do so a range of redeployment options will be explored, including other jobs within HMRC or other Government Departments. Staff will be supported through this process by managers and the local implementation team.

HMRC remains committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies where it is practical to do so. Compulsory home moves are one measure HMRC will consider if there are no other alternatives that would avoid compulsory redundancies.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake a review of the financial basis for the proposed closures of HM Revenue and Customs offices in the current economic circumstances. [273332]

Mr. Timms: No. In the current economic climate it is more important than ever for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to manage its business and estate as efficiently as possible so as to achieve the best possible value to the taxpayer. That is the rationale behind office closures. HMRC is keeping the offices that best match its future business needs and giving up office space that is no longer needed as a result of its business reorganisation.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices; and if he will make a statement. [274078]

Mr. Timms: Earlier this year officials in HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) signed an agreement with officials in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to help provide opportunities for HMRC staff who may wish to voluntarily transfer to Jobcentre Plus. This agreement provides a framework to identify where there is a good match between DWP Jobcentre Plus recruitment plans and HMRC staff who may be looking for new opportunities. HMRC is supporting staff through the application process, should they decide to move to other Government Departments.

Under this agreement the first group of HMRC staff have moved across to DWP and both departments continue to work together to maximise opportunities for HMRC staff.

Revenue and Customs: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effect the closure of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC's) Shrewsbury office is expected to have on HMRC's costs, broken down by category of expenditure. [273326]

Mr. Timms: The closure of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Shrewsbury will contribute to improved efficiency through the concentration of function into a smaller number of sites. These efficiencies will be realised at a department-wide level rather than at individual office level. The closure will also contribute to cumulative overall accommodation cost savings of some £230 million by 2011-12.

Reliable figures for the specific costs of closing the Shrewsbury office will only be established once workable options have been found for all staff prior to the accommodation being vacated.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to assist school leavers in Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency

to apply for jobs in HM Revenue and Customs constitution following the closure of the HMRC office in Shrewsbury. [273329]

Mr. Timms: At a time when HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reducing in numbers and closing offices, the opportunities for school leavers will be more limited. HMRC is recruiting to fill only posts with particular requirements which cannot be met internally.

Taxation: Arts

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will amend HM Revenue and Customs' guidelines to allow charities with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 to pay honoraria tax-free to organisers of arts and music festivals. [273712]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs' published guidance reflects the law and sets out the rules on the tax-treatment of honoraria in the hands of voluntary workers and unpaid office holders. Although such guidance is kept under review we have no plans to introduce a specific exemption on the lines suggested.

Taxation: Bingo

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the rates of tax imposed on profits from bingo participation and other gambling activities differ; and if he will make a statement. [273125]

Angela Eagle: The Government consider all relevant factors when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes, including the state of the gambling industry, wider economic considerations, and the state of the public finances.

For bingo, the overall effective tax rate is 22 per cent. down from 35 per cent. in 2003. This is in line with that on casinos, machines and the national lottery, all of which are taxed within a 20-25 per cent. range.

Taxation: Sports

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the taxation of the testimonial benefits of sportsmen and women; and what assessment he has made of its operation by HM Revenue and Customs in respect of *(a)* cricketers, *(b)* rugby union players and *(c)* rugby league players. [273711]

Mr. Timms: The treatment of the money raised at testimonial and benefit events that is received by sportsmen and women is described in HM Revenue and Customs employment income manual under the heading "Tax treatment of benefit matches and testimonials given to sportsmen and women—in particular rugby, soccer and cricket players" available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/eimanual/EIM64120.htm

WALES

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which ports in Wales have been affected by retrospective levying of business rates on ports. [270267]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Ports affected by retrospective business rates on businesses outside the control of the Ports Authority are:

Barry, Cardiff, Fishguard, Holyhead, Milford Dock Company, Mostyn, Newport, Port Talbot and Swansea.

Work is still ongoing in respect of Milford Haven Port Authority where new facts are being investigated and discussed, which may impact on the number of properties involved.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 11 May 2009

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister whether the name of the Clerk of the Intelligence and Security Committee will be published in the next edition of the Civil Service Yearbook; and if he will make a statement. [273996]

The Prime Minister: The name will be published in the usual manner.

Intelligence Services: Publications

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what facilities were afforded to Gordon Thomas by or on behalf of *(a)* the Security Service, *(b)* the Secret Intelligence Service and *(c)* others in the security and intelligence services in his research for his book, Inside British Intelligence; and if he will make a statement; [273999]

(2) at what level, and in what circumstances, members of the security and intelligence services were authorised to give interviews or other assistance to Gordon Thomas in the preparation of his book, Inside British Intelligence; and if he will make a statement. [274000]

The Prime Minister: This is not an official publication.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Grand Prix

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with third parties on the proposed relocation of the British Grand Prix from Silverstone to Donington; what support he plans to offer for such a move; and if he will make a statement. [274606]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On 4 July 2008, Formula One Management signed a 10 year contract with Donington Ventures Leisure Ltd. (DVLL) to host the British Formula One Grand Prix at Donington from 2010. This was a commercial agreement between the parties concerned.

Ministers continue to discuss the hosting of the British Grand Prix with various parties and I recently visited Donington to discuss progress with the owners.

It is the Government's ongoing wish to see a British Grand Prix in this country and we continue to facilitate and support this where we can.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time staff employed by *(a)* his Department in London, *(b)* historic royal palaces and *(c)* the National Gallery earn less than £15,944 per annum. [274167]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no full-time staff employed in DCMS who earn less than £15,944 per annum. We do not hold records centrally about pay for staff in the historic royal palaces or the National Gallery.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [274168]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are 28 staff employed in London on work contracted out by the Department that earn less than £7.45 per hour.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272121]

Ann McKechin: Scotland Office buildings are not equipped with any air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW output.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [272124]

Ann McKechin: £3,099 has been spent by the Scotland Office in carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 for Dover House. The regulations do not apply to our Edinburgh office.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent to date on administrative costs associated with the Bloody Sunday Inquiry. [260151]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office budget is split into two cost areas—programme and administration. In relation to the Bloody Sunday inquiry, administration costs are the costs relating to the salaries and other associated costs of the civil servants staffing the inquiry, and various costs associated with the running of the inquiry's offices. I am advised that the Bloody Sunday inquiry has spent £11.5 million on such administration costs since its establishment to the end of March 2009. Programme costs, which relate more directly to the costs of the inquiry itself (e.g. IT infrastructure costs, legal fees, tribunal costs etc.) are not included in this figure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Disabled Staff

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will make an estimate of the effect of the proposed transfer of hon. Members' staff to become direct employees of the House on its targets for the number of disabled people it employs. [274322]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission has been asked by the House to make recommendations on the implementation of the proposal that staff who work for hon. Members should be employed by the House. In its consideration of this proposal, a number of aspects of employment law, including that relating to disability, will need to be taken into account.

Parliament: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 26W, on audio recordings, what progress has been made in setting up a history area of the Parliament website; whether any decision has been made on sound recordings planned for inclusion in that area; and if he will make a statement. [273897]

Nick Harvey: A new area of the Parliament website is due to be launched this summer which will focus on Parliament's heritage. This will replace and expand on the historical information that is currently available on the site and cover the building and its collections, the evolution of Parliament and key pieces of legislation that have transformed society. This area will also provide the opportunity to embed or link to a variety of different content including relevant audio files. Having run a successful pilot the web centre is planning to release a number of podcasts over the coming financial year. These recordings will cover, among other topics, the history, art and architecture of the Houses of Parliament.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the value of *(a)* securities available for lending, *(b)* securities lent and *(c)* securities lent to hedge funds by the Church Commissioners was in each of the last three years. [273444]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners commenced a securities lending programme for the first time in 2008. At the end of the year, £4.2 million of securities were lent to seven investment banks but none were on loan directly with hedge funds. There is an upper limit amounting to 10 per cent. of total securities that can be lent at any time.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what proportion of the Church Commissioners' listed securities were invested overseas in each of the last three years. [273445]

Sir Stuart Bell: At the end of 2006 the Commissioners' exposure to overseas equities stood at 36 per cent. of total equities exposure. At the end of 2007 the percentage was 37 per cent. and at the end of 2008 it had grown to about 53 per cent. (fully audited figures will be published later this week).

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much of the Church Commissioners' assets were held in real estate in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* overseas in each of the last three years. [273446]

Sir Stuart Bell: The figures requested by the hon. Gentleman are as follows:

£ million

	Total real estate	*Overseas real estate*	*UK real estate*
2005	1,415.6	10.1	1,405.5
2006	1,692.8	32.8	1,660
2007	1,724.6	110.2	1,614.4

2008 figures will be published later this week.

Church of England: Vehicles

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many vehicles the Church Commissioners *(a)* own and *(b)* operate. [273313]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners operate 101 vehicles, one of which they own (the rest being held under a leasing agreement).

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the latest unconstrained demand forecast for UK air travel in 2030 is taking account of *(a)* the errata published on 17 March 2009 to the January 2009 UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts and *(b)* the revised gross domestic product forecasts contained in the 2009 Budget Report. [272409]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's latest forecasts of unconstrained demand in the UK in 2030 are given in table 2.10, page 44 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts" published in January 2009. The central estimate is 465 million passengers per annum (mppa). Table 2.10 of the report also reports the

Department's forecasts of unconstrained demand under a range of sensitivity tests, including one which reflects the GDP forecasts announced at the time of the 2008 pre-Budget report (referred to as 'PBR Nov 2008 GDP forecast').

The Department published the errata on 17 March 2009 following the discovery of an input error to the 'PBR Nov 2008 GDP forecast' sensitivity test. The corrected forecast of UK unconstrained demand in 2030 for this sensitivity test given in the errata is 435 mppa (revised down from 445 mppa, given in the published report). The central case forecast and other sensitivity tests were not affected by the errata.

The Department has not yet updated its forecasts to reflect the 2009 Budget report. It aims to publish updated forecasts when there is a policy need, as it did recently alongside the announcement of policy decisions on the future development of Heathrow airport.

Aviation: Greater London

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights there were over London airspace in each year since 1997; and how many there are projected to be in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2030 and *(d)* 2040. [274418]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Airspace management in the UK is an operational matter for the air traffic control provider, NATS. The following link to the NATS website provides an overview of traffic volumes handled by NATS from their various centres and flights handled at major UK airports:

http://www.nats.co.uk/text/47/operational_and_safety.html

Further information may be obtained by contacting NATS directly:

External Communications Department, 4000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hants, PO15 7FL.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fines have been issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for failure to comply with the provisions of section 59 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 in each year since the Act came into force. [274031]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of out of court settlements (OCS) issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for failure to comply with the provisions of section 59 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 are as follows:

	Number
1999-2000	5,100
2000-01	27,222
2001-02	48,534
2002-03	85,020
2003-04	79,363
2004-05	59,216
2005-06	52,640
2006-07	42,078
2007-08	36,794
2008-09	132,137

Motor Vehicles: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of cars in the UK were *(a)* diesel, *(b)* unleaded petrol, *(c)* hybrid, *(d)* electric and *(e)* other in each year since 1997. [274417]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers (in thousands) and percentages of cars of different propulsion types licensed in Great Britain in each year since 1997 were as follows:

	Diesel		*Petrol*		*Hybrid electric*		*Electric*		*Thousand/percentage Other*	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1997	2,441	11	20,380	89	0	0	—	—	6	—
1998	2,693	12	20,591	88	0	0	—	—	10	—
1999	2,930	12	21,019	88	0	0	—	—	14	—
2000	3,153	13	21,253	87	—	—	—	—	20	—
2001	3,460	14	21,641	86	1	—	—	—	24	—
2002	3,912	15	21,839	85	1	—	—	—	29	—
2003	4,469	17	21,805	83	1	—	—	—	34	—
2004	5,011	19	21,977	81	3	—	—	—	38	—
2005	5,596	20	21,836	79	8	—	—	—	40	—
2006	6,135	22	21,631	78	17	—	—	—	43	—
2007	6,716	24	21,432	76	32	—	1	—	46	—
2008	7,227	25	21,064	74	47	—	1	—	51	—

"—" is given where the value is negligible (less than half the final digit shown).

The data presented above relate to the position at the 31 December each year.

The Department for Transport does not hold statistics regarding vehicle registrations in Northern Ireland.

Motor Vehicles: Lighting

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what timetable he has set for publication of the responses to his Department's consultation on amendments to the vehicle lighting and construction regulations; [272534]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to amend road vehicle lighting regulations to require conspicuity markings on all heavy goods vehicles registered from 10 October 2009. [272535]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We plan to publish the results of the consultation by the summer, together with the amendments to the lighting regulations.

These amendments will require new heavy goods vehicles and their trailers first used from 10 October 2009 to be fitted with conspicuity markings.

This date coincides with the international agreements contained in UN-ECE Regulation 48 on vehicle lighting. Bringing forward the implementation date would contravene this regulation.

Ports: EU Action

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on proposals for a common EU maritime policy on port taxes. [272699]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None.

Railways: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to prevent train operating companies raising the cost of unregulated fares further during 2009. [272411]

Paul Clark: Unregulated fares are a commercial matter for train operators who are free to set them on a commercial basis. Train operators face strong competition from the private car, coaches and airlines and will set fares to compete: it is not in their interest to price people off the railway as this would reduce their revenue.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* National Express East Coast, *(b)* First Great Western, *(c)* East Midlands Trains, *(d)* First Capital Connect and *(e)* CrossCountry on plans to raise the cost of unregulated fares. [272421]

Paul Clark: Unregulated fares are a commercial matter for train operators who are free to set them on a commercial basis. Department for Transport officials hold regular meetings with train operators, during which a wide range of topics are discussed.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria are used to determine the minimum service provisions of train operating companies' franchise agreements; and what processes there are for consultation with passengers on any changes in these provisions. [274408]

Paul Clark: The service provisions within franchise agreements are consulted upon by the Department for Transport as part of the franchise reletting process. Such consultations usually involve all relevant local authorities, passenger transport executives (PTE's) and other major stakeholders, user groups and user representatives such as Passenger Focus.

The minimum level of service—as described within the service level commitment detailed within the franchise agreement—is determined by a combination of:

Deliverability (i.e. can it be timetabled alongside all other services);

Cost;

Demand and Revenues;

Overall levels of service.

Train operators are required to consult stakeholders where they propose changes to these minimum service levels, and the Department will consider these responses alongside other evidence from operators in deciding whether such changes are appropriate.

Railways: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the level of overall demand for direct train services between Torbay and London. [274290]

Paul Clark: Estimates of the overall demand for direct train services are based on data on recent flows between Torbay and London. Both South West Trains and First Great Western operate London-Torbay services from Waterloo and Paddington respectively. This information belongs to the train operating company and queries should be addressed to the companies concerned at:

First Great Western
Milford House
Swindon
SN11HL

South West Trains
Customer Service Centre
Overline House
Blechynden Terrace
Southampton
SO15 1GW

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents have occurred in each year involving powered two-wheel vehicles causing *(a)* death, *(b)* serious injury and *(c)* other injury in each (i) county and (ii) unitary council area in each year since 1997. [274419]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Tables showing the number of *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious and *(c)* slight reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one motorcycle in each county and local authority area in each year since 1997 have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has paid back to the European Union following rulings in relation to breaches by the UK of requirements under the Common Agricultural Policy in each year since 1997. [273276]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The Rural Payments Agency has had the following financial corrections applied by the European Commission over the past five financial years:

	£ million
2008-09	140.475
2007-08	22.154
2006-07	3.049
2005-06	22.608
2004-05	12.170

Payments are deducted from subsequent claim reimbursements, two months after the correction decision is formally published, but with the exception of late payment penalties which are deducted at the time of the claim being submitted. In this case the correction decision is retrospective. The high figure in 2008-09 includes such a retrospective decision for failure to meet payment deadlines in regard to the Single Payment Scheme 2005.

Data prior to the implementation of the Single Payment Scheme (e.g. prior to 2004) could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the National Farmers Union on action to be taken following the consultation on Responsibility and Cost Sharing. [273344]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State and I meet regularly with representatives of the National Farmers Union to discuss a wide range of agricultural and farming issues including responsibility and cost sharing for animal health.

Bees

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of *(a)* honey and *(b)* bumble bees as a percentage of their total population in the next five years; [273301]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the cost to agriculture in England of the likely change in the numbers of *(a)* honey bees and *(b)* bumble bees in the next 10 years. [273302]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimates have been made yet. However, recent evidence considering the decline in species richness of both bumblebees and solitary bees suggests a significant decrease in the number of bee species for which data was available in England. In recognition of this, the Secretary of State recently announced additional funding of £4.3 million for bee health which includes supporting the implementation of the initial phase of a 10 year plan to improve and protect the health of honey bees in England and Wales. This additional funding will allow DEFRA to contribute £0.5 million per annum over five years to a wider research programme on pollinator decline which was announced on 21 April.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take in the next two years to protect the bee population in England. [273303]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has allocated new resources for the bee health programme to fund the implementation of the 'Healthy Bees' plan. On top of its current £1.3 million per annum, an additional £2.3 million will be provided to the National Bee Unit (NBU) (part of the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)) over the next two years to implement the first stage of the plan.

This involves producing a more accurate national picture of the numbers and distribution of beekeepers, and the health status of their colonies. Our improved understanding of the national position will allow the development of a new robust disease control and surveillance programme for implementation from 2011 onwards. In addition, FERA is bidding for funding under the EU Framework Programme 7, to establish a consortium of researchers who will investigate the main factors leading to colony losses.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to *(a)* prevent and *(b)* monitor the import and spread of bluetongue disease in summer 2009. [273342]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is as follows:

(a) As of 3 November 2008, all of Great Britain became a single confluent protection zone for Bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8). Animals can be moved freely within this protection zone, and to and from other BTV-8 protection zones in Europe provided that they meet the generic import/export requirements and are accompanied by an Export Health Certificate which has been signed by an official veterinarian.

Movements of susceptible animals from Protection Zones for different serotypes are subject to the restrictions set out in Annex III of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 (as amended).

(b) DEFRA has a number of scanning and targeted surveillance measures in place to monitor Bluetongue in the UK as detailed in the UK-wide Bluetongue Control Strategy.

With specific regard to imports, DEFRA conducts post-import tests on all susceptible animals imported from continental Europe for all Bluetongue serotypes. From 1 April 2009, this was increased to double testing to ensure that disease is picked up in both its early and late stages. DEFRA also urges industry to consider the risks and check the health and vaccination status of animals when sourcing any animals, from within the UK or abroad.

Spread of BTV-8 is additionally controlled through the use of vaccine. DEFRA underwrote 28 million doses of BTV-8 vaccine in 2008, enough for all susceptible animals in England. 12 million of these doses formed the supply at the start of 2009. This along with free market vaccine supplies from the three manufacturers authorised to market vaccine in the UK, Intervet, Merial and Fort Dodge should meet the demand for BTV-8 vaccine in 2009.

British Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been distributed in grants to the British Overseas Territories from the Darwin Initiative scheme since 2006. [272612]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since the Darwin Initiative was launched in 1992, a total of just over £2 million of its funding has been awarded to projects in the UK Overseas Territories. £494,124 of this figure has been invested since 2006, which reflects the Darwin Initiative's increasing interest in biodiversity conservation in these important parts of the world.

Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dogs in England and Wales have been placed on the register of exempt dogs under section 4A and section 4B procedures under the Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997 in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [272366]

Jane Kennedy: We do not record under which section of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended 1997) prohibited types of dogs are added to the Index of Exempted Dogs.

	Number of dogs added to index	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
1997	9	9	0	0
1998	36	36	0	0
1999	26	26	0	0
2000	15	15	0	0
2001	4	4	0	0
2002	7	7	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	6	5	0	1
2005	1	0	0	1
2006	6	6	0	0
2007	185	183	0	2
2008	331	320	3	8
2009	120	116	0	4

Note:
Data for 2009 can be considered as to end of April.
Source:
Index of Exempted Dogs.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269860]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Departmental Asset Management Strategy 2008-09 to 2010-11 published on our website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/finance/ams/asset-management-strategy.pdf

sets out the management approach to wider assets, including identification and disposal.

The Department has not commissioned an independent property review in recent years. However, its estates team, working in conjunction with retained property consultants, keeps its land and property assets under constant review, working with business and policy areas, to identify and seek the disposal of surplus property assets.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269561]

Jane Kennedy: Since the publication of the Greening Government Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy, the Department has commissioned a Green ICT Feasibility Study by IBM to establish a Roadmap for the core Department and its Executive Agencies to not only meet the 2012 target for carbon neutrality for ICT in use across its estate, but also to include its out-sourced IT estate; primarily the appropriate portions of two large IBM data centres that support the provision of our IT services.

For core DEFRA and those agencies taking all their IT services from IBM (some 4,500 staff), IBM currently uses a catalogue of assets that conform with the Quick Wins criteria set out in the Government's Green IT strategy for laptops, desktops and monitors. 96 per cent. of the current deployed IBM desktop and laptop assets are compliant with the Quick Wins criteria.

10 months after the launch of the Greening Government ICT Strategy DEFRA has already delivered eight of the original 18 Chief Information Officer top tips set out in the HMG Greening ICT Strategy and submitted an initial draft Roadmap for addressing the remaining 10 tips, based on interim findings from the Feasibility Study. The top tips and Strategy can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/greening_government_ict.aspx

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 826-7W, on the economic situation, what expenditure under what budgetary heading his Department incurred in relation to its seminar with delivery bodies held in November 2008. [268171]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The seminar with DEFRA delivery bodies on 10 November 2008 was held at the offices of WRAP in Banbury. The only costs to DEFRA were the time and rail travel of seven departmental representatives. Attendees from the other delivery bodies would have incurred similar costs.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department held discussions with HM Treasury before the recent decision to make reductions in his Department's budget. [273343]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA's contribution to the Government's £5 billion value for money savings in 2010-11 was agreed with the Treasury based upon what we believe is deliverable through the Operational Efficiency Programme and other efficiency measures.

Farmers: Income

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely effects on the income of hill farmers of European Commission proposals to modify the criteria which define less favoured areas; if he will make it his policy to seek amendment of those proposals to ensure that the income of hill farmers is not reduced by modification of those criteria; and if he will make a statement. [273411]

Jane Kennedy: The European Commission's proposal for new criteria to identify less favoured areas (LFA) will not impact on current upland policies in England. The current English LFA scheme—the hill farm allowance (HFA)—is being replaced with an agri-environment scheme, uplands entry level stewardship (Uplands ELS). Eligibility for Uplands ELS, as well as the make-up of the single payment scheme regions, is determined by domestic classifications, principally severely disadvantaged areas (SDA), rather than the LFA classification, so would not be directly affected by the Commission's proposals, which are unlikely to be implemented in the current rural development programming period.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also have LFA support schemes—the less favoured area support scheme (LFASS), the Tyr Mynydd scheme, and the less favoured areas compensatory allowance scheme (LFACA) respectively. Any redesignation of the LFA would impact on the number of farmers eligible for LFA support therefore, and we are liaising accordingly with the devolved administrations on this.

We are continuing to work with the Commission and other member states on the proposals outlined by the Commission.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the use of kitemarked products for the purposes of *(a)* flood defences and *(b)* household (i) repairs after flooding and (ii) flood resilience. [273133]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency is the lead delivery body for Government flood risk management policy. It always specifies materials for its flood defences that meet the relevant British and European standards for quality.

The Environment Agency policy on temporary defences states that only suitably accredited temporary defences such as BSI Kitemark or similarly accredited products should be used.

The Environment Agency is developing a policy on property protection products in addition to existing policies on demountable and temporary flood protection products. It encourages the use of quality products for the reduction of flood risk and actively supports the use of the BSI Kitemark scheme through sponsorship of publicly available specification (PAS) 1188.

The Environment Agency is working with representatives of flood product manufacturers, the Flood Protection Association, the Association of British Insurers, insurance companies, DEFRA and HR Wallingford to develop PAS 1188 flood protection products.

For repairs after flooding, the Government encourage the use of materials that meet the appropriate British Standards and codes of practice and recommends that properties are made resilient to future floods. DEFRA is working with the Association of British Insurers to improve the development of flood resilience when making repairs after flooding.

Food: Waste Disposal

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest estimate is of the amount of food waste not sent to landfill in the last 12 months. [273241]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold the information requested.

Swans: Testing

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authority officers have authority to authorise isotope blood tests of swans. [272938]

Jane Kennedy: Local authority officers do not authorise the isotope blood testing of swans.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many isotope blood tests of swans have been authorised in each of the last 12 years; and where the swans tested were treated. [272939]

Jane Kennedy: We are not aware of any isotope blood tests that have been performed on swans in the last 12 years.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of likely levels of compliance with the requirements of *(a)* part L and *(b)* part F of the Building Regulations following their revision. [273189]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is presently engaged in a joint project with the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes (EEPfH) looking at levels of compliance for new homes with the requirements of Part L (2006) of the Building Regulations. The first part of this study has been published on the EEPfH website at:

http://www.eeph.org.uk/uploads/documents/partnership/EEPHCLG%20Part%20L1A%20Compliance%20Project%20-%20Pilot%20Study%20Report%20v1.41.pdf

The second part of the study will be published shortly.

The Department is also currently evaluating Part F to help inform its proposed revision alongside Part L in 2010.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of building control officers with the function of overseeing implementation of the Building Regulations. [273191]

Mr. Iain Wright: All local authority building control officers in England and Wales are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the building regulations in their respective authorities. All approved inspectors are responsible for the implementation of the building regulations in England and Wales, but approved inspectors have no enforcement responsibilities.

A recent independent survey report commissioned by this Department from the Building Control Alliance (BCA) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), covering building control officers in England and Wales, found that in 2006-07 in the 201 local authorities that sent in a return there was a total of 2,609 employees and in the 22 approved inspector Building Control bodies that sent in a return there was a total of 1,812 employees. A full copy of the survey report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/surveybuildingcontrolrpt

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of changing Building Regulations to introduce photoluminescent markings as a safety precaution in public spaces. [274393]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have made no assessment of the costs or benefits of changing Building Regulations to introduce requirements for photoluminescent markings in public spaces.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to mark inter faith week; and if she will make a statement. [273196]

Mr. Khan: The Department announced on 24 March that inter faith week will take place from 15 to 21 November across England and possibly Wales. It was proposed to Government by the Inter Faith Network for the UK (the member bodies of which include the Churches and other major faith communities) in 2008 as part of the consultation for the Government's inter faith strategy "Face to Face and Side by Side: A Framework for Partnership in our Multi Faith Society."

We are keen to see local faith groups and communities around the country reaching out to each other to build stronger bonds of understanding and co-operation. Places of worship, inter faith bodies, schools and colleges, local authorities and other public agencies will be holding their own local events. Activities will also aim to increase public awareness of the various faith communities of the UK, focusing on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and wider society. Local, regional and national inter faith initiatives will be able to raise their profile. We hope the week will also increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

The Department is facilitating the week in partnership with the Inter Faith Network and in consultation with the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Local Government Association and the Equality and Human Rights Commission. We are liaising with the relevant public agencies, helping facilitate publicity and developing written materials. We will also organise a launch event in the preceding week.

Council Housing: Rents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 470W, on council housing: rents, if she will place in the Library a copy of the consultation document. [273687]

Mr. Iain Wright: A copy of the final housing revenue account subsidy Amending Determination for 2009-10 will be placed in the Library of the House when it is issued. We aim to issue this document soon.

Council Tax

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent discussions she has had with leaders of local authorities on levels of council tax; [272891]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with local authority chief executives on levels of council tax. [273067]

John Healey: Ministers from Communities and Local Government regularly meet with representatives from local authorities at which various issues may be raised.

Derelict Land: Gardens

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has commissioned on the *(a)* level of infill development in residential communities and *(b)* loss of garden space as a result of new residential development. [273216]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1503-5W.

Empty Property

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to assist local authorities in returning derelict residential properties to occupancy. [274427]

Mr. Iain Wright: We work closely with the independent Empty Homes Agency to encourage local authorities to tackle empty homes in their areas. Through the Housing Act 2004, we have introduced new powers to allow local authorities to take over the management of private sector empty homes (empty dwelling management orders) where a voluntary approach is not successful. We are

supporting the Empty Homes Agency's new guidance on EDMOs, which was launched on 10 March. The guidance is internet-based and interactive and takes local authorities through the EDMO process step by step. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing provided a foreword for the guidance.

I hosted an Empty Homes seminar for a number of local authorities on 23 April to provide an opportunity to discuss the obstacles facing authorities in dealing with empty homes, share examples of best practice and encourage them to take action to tackle empty homes in their area.

Empty Property: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of residential properties which have become vacant and derelict in West Lancashire constituency in the last *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months and *(c)* five years. [274426]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is not held centrally on when dwellings become vacant, nor on dereliction. However, the following table shows the number of vacant dwellings as at 6 October 2008. Figures are not available at constituency level for West Lancashire. Figures are available at local authority level for Lancashire as a whole.

Local authority	*Number of short-term empty dwellings (empty for less than six months)*	*Number of long-term empty dwellings (empty for more than six months)*	*Total number of empty dwellings*
Burnley	1,782	1,427	3,209
Chorley	845	681	1,526
Fylde	1,098	765	1,863
Hyndburn	1,242	1,246	2,488
Lancaster	1,463	1,030	2,493
Pendle	806	2,196	3,002
Preston	1,418	1,073	2,491
Ribble Valley	473	272	745
Rossendale	841	607	1,448
South Ribble	918	440	1,358
West Lancashire	683	730	1,413
Wyre	1,062	754	1,816
Lancashire	12,631	11,221	23,852

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications her Department has received from local authorities for permission to transfer housing revenue account stock into the general fund under section 19(2) of the Housing Act 1985 in each of the last five years. [274826]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is as follows:

	Number
2004-05	9
2005-06	10
2006-07	3
2007-08	5
2008-09	1
Total	28

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of self-build properties constructed in each of the last five years. [274832]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally.

Housing: Floods

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of her Department's expenditure in the last 12 months on rehousing people who lost their homes as a result of flooding. [273091]

John Healey: The Department has provided, since 1 May 2008, approximately £32.6 million to local authorities affected by the summer 2007 floods and approximately £1.3 million to local authorities affected by subsequent flooding, to support them in helping householders, businesses and communities get back to normal.

This funding is part of approximately of £69.2 million provided by the Department and £136 million by central Government as a whole to support the recovery effort from the summer 2007 floods.

Housing: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the new houses completed in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency between 2003 and 2009 were vacant at the latest date for which figures are available. [273610]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

The council tax base and council taxbase supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) return, reported by local authorities to CLG, includes the total number of long-term and short-term vacancies in a local authority area.

The table gives the total number of vacant dwellings in Merseyside and its local authorities at 6 October 2008, the latest date for which figures are available. The number of vacant dwellings is not available at constituency level.

County/local authority	*Number of long-term empty dwellings (empty for more than six months)*	*Total number of empty dwellings*
Merseyside	16,011	23,811
Knowsley	1,499	2,615
Liverpool	7,571	8,761
Sefton	2,650	3,561
St. Helens	1,079	2,592
Wirral	3,212	6,282

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities.

Those dwellings vacant for less than six months are more likely to be empty for a short period following a sale before the new owner occupies it, where the property needs work to be carried out before it can be occupied, or where the property is in probate and are seen as 'transactional' vacant dwellings and are thus a characteristic of the housing market.

It is therefore sometimes more appropriate to look at long-term vacancies rather than the total number of vacant dwellings.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to planning authorities on the definition of the term eaves used in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted) Development Order 1995, as amended. [273547]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have not provided a definition of eaves in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted) Development Order, 1995, nor have they issued guidance on a definition to local planning authorities. Interpretation of the order is a matter for local authorities and ultimately a matter for the courts.

Housing: Sales

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of first-time buyers purchased a home at a price under £250,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [273761]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department holds data on completed mortgages used for house purchase via the Regulated Mortgage Survey (RMS) which are supplied by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. The RMS covers about 60 per cent. of the UK mortgage market and includes details on whether the buyer was a first-time buyer and the purchase price of the property.

Using the RMS we estimate that 89 per cent. of first-time buyers buying with a mortgage purchased their property for under £250,000 in the UK in 2008. Using Council of Mortgage Lenders data on total numbers of first-time buyers buying with a mortgage in the UK for 2008 we estimate that this amounts to around 172,800 first-time buyers.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the Decent Homes scheme has been funded through the Private Finance Initiative. [273732]

Mr. Iain Wright: £4.6 billion in PFI credits has been allocated to the Housing PFI Programme. Around £2.2 billion of this total figure has been allocated to schemes that will help local authorities meet the Decent Homes standard. Of this, £1.1 billion accounts for schemes which are now in construction and/or operational.

Housing: Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made in the methodology used to compile the English House Condition Survey in each year since 1997. [273799]

Mr. Iain Wright: The English House Condition Survey (EHCS) was run every five years from 1971 until 2001 but moved to a continuous survey from 2002. From 2008 the survey merged with the Survey of English Housing to form the English Housing Survey (EHS) which is also run on a continuous basis.

The basic EHCS survey methodology remained unchanged from 1997. A smaller 8,000 annual clustered sample was introduced in 2002 (compared to a 17,000 un-clustered sample used for the five yearly survey) to reduce fieldwork costs. Minor changes have been made each year to the survey content and reporting to reflect the changing information needs of government. From 2006 assessments were collected under the Housing Health and Safety Rating system (which replaced the Fitness Standard as the statutory tool for enforcing minimum standards).

Under the EHS interviews are now conducted with 17,000 households a year. A surveyor subsequently conducts an inspection of 8,000 of these homes using a new automated method of data collection to further reduce costs and improve data quality.

The EHCS/EHS continue to provide Government with an essential source of information on the changing condition and energy performance of the housing stock. Further information about the EHCS, including annual methodological reports, can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/ehcs

Local Government Services: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to charge for building control services in relation to small household extensions. [273689]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are authorised by 'The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998' to fix their own charges in a scheme for carrying out their main building control functions with the aim of fully recovering their costs. The charges for building work related to small household extensions should be fixed with reference to the floor area of the proposed extension.

The Department is currently carrying out a consultation exercise seeking views on a number of proposed changes to the charging regime. The consultation paper can be found on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/lachargingregimeconsult

National Brownfield Forum

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the National Brownfield Forum; and what the membership of the forum is. [273220]

Mr. Iain Wright: The role of the forum was set out in the Government's Response to (then) English Partnerships' Recommendations on the National Brownfield Strategy, and referred to the aim of "promoting a more cohesive and inclusive approach to policy development".

The National Brownfield Forum held its first meeting in February 2009, and further meetings will be held quarterly. The meetings are held in confidence, and relate to the formulation and development of Government policy.

Communities and Local Government will be publishing summaries of the forum meetings on its website as a matter of course in the near future.

Membership of the forum is composed, currently, of representatives of the following organisations:

AGS—Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists

CIEH—Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

CLAIRE—Contaminated Land Applications in Real Environments

DCLG—Department for Communities and Local Government

DEFRA—Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

EA—Environment Agency

EIC—Environmental Industries Commission

EPUK—Environmental Protection UK

FSA—Food Standards Agency

HBF—House Builders Federation

HCA—Homes and Communities Agency

HPA—Health Protection Agency

LACORS—Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services

LRT—Land Restoration Trust

SAGTA—Soil and Groundwater Technology Association

SILC—Specialist in Land Condition.

Planning: Public Consultation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many consultations on planning policy her Department has issued since May 2005. [273759]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 1 May 2005 we have launched 11 consultations on planning policy. This excludes consultation on specific procedural and legislative changes and proposed advice documents.

Property Development

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on whether under the terms of the General Permitted Development Order the measurement of the extended part of the dwelling house beyond the original dwelling house is taken from wall to wall or roof to roof. [274166]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have not specified in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted) Development Order, 1995, as amended, whether the measurement of the extended part of the dwelling house beyond the original dwelling house should be taken from wall-to-wall or roof-to-roof. Nor have they issued guidance on this issue to local planning authorities. Interpretation of the order is a matter for local authorities and ultimately for the courts.

Property Development: Floods

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 147, if she will place in the Library a copy of the recent reassessment of protection against flood risk. [273256]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 Consultation document sets out a tidal flood management plan for the London and the Thames estuary through to the end of the century. The consultation closes at the end of June and the document is available on the Environment Agency website:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/104695.aspx

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much gross revenue the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre raised from bookings made by Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in 2008. [272438]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre generated £2,927,941 gross revenue from bookings made by Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in 2008.

Recreation Spaces

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on departmental procurement, whether the green spaces database holds information on gardens. [273594]

Mr. Iain Wright: The green spaces database holds information on English gardens for 2005.

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of tenure of *(a)* registered social landlord and *(b)* local authority tenant was in each of the last five years. [274838]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 399W.

Repossession Orders

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1382W, on repossession orders, when she expects her Department to be in possession of the data for 2008-09. [273407]

Mr. Iain Wright: The continuous recording of lettings (CORE) for 2008-09 is collected on behalf of Communities and Local Government by the Centre for Housing Research at the University of St Andrews. Delivery of final datasets to the Department is expected in August.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many registered social landlord properties were sold to *(a)* tenants and *(b)* non-tenants in each of the last five years. [273405]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of registered social landlord properties sold from 2003-04 to 2007-08 in England, according to whether they were sold to tenants or non-tenants.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
To tenants	14,920	9,210	6,910	5,450	3,850
To non-tenants	6,170	11,000	16,060	13,470	17,760
Total	21,090	20,210	22,970	18,920	21,610

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency investment management system (IMS), and regulatory and statistical returns (RSR) to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

Sales to tenants include sales through Right to Buy, Right to Acquire, Voluntary Purchase Grant, and Social HomeBuy. Sales to non-tenants include sales through Open Market HomeBuy and New Build HomeBuy. We have treated sales to tenants as where the tenant is currently occupying the property they are purchasing.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department and its agencies have provided to local authorities on conditions of tenancy applicable to social tenants running businesses from their homes. [273721]

Mr. Iain Wright: I am not aware that the Department have provided any such guidance.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for underage drinking there were in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [274372]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. It is not possible to identify the number of arrests made for underage drinking from the data on arrests reported to the Home Office.

Furthermore, the data on arrests held by the Home Office are reported at police force area level only therefore information on arrests in the Tamworth constituency are not available.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for supplying alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [274373]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1027W.

Court proceedings data collected centrally are available at police force area level only; therefore data for Tamworth constituency cannot be supplied.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects data collected on the number of anti-social behaviour orders issued and breached after 31 December 2006 to be available. [272698]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data on antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) is based on information supplied to the Home Office by courts. This information is compiled by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for the Home Office.

ASBO data undergo extensive checking and a rigorous quality assurance process to verify the accuracy and completeness of the data they contain. Since December 2006 ASBO data have been published together with data on all the antisocial behaviour tools and powers collected from crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) in an annual survey. The Government want to ensure that members of the public can find out easily how their local agencies are tackling antisocial behaviour.

ASBO data for 2007 and the latest information on the use of tools and powers will be published shortly.

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which passport or passports of persons with dual nationality will be registered on the e-Borders database. [270110]

Jacqui Smith: The capability to identify passengers travelling on different passports is something that will be developed incrementally within e-Borders.

As the system develops, the identification of passengers travelling on different passports will become easier to reconcile. Travel histories stored in the system will be person-centric, rather than travel document-centric and the use of more than one passport by an individual will be identified at the primary arrivals control, and captured within the system.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 16 and to the answer of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1349W, borders: personal records where the information referred to in the answer is located on her Department's website; what categories of information on travellers and passengers will be collected for the purposes of the e-borders programme when the programme is fully operational; and whether the 10-year storing of information applies to all of these categories. [273683]

Mr. Woolas: Information on e-Borders can be found on the UK Border Agency website at the following web address

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/advance-passenger-information

e-Borders will collect Travel Document Information (TDI) on all journeys to and from the United Kingdom. These data consist of the eight sections of biographical data which are contained in the machine readable zone (MRZ) of a passport, being: name, date of birth, nationality, gender, travel document type, state of issue, number and expiry date.

Carriers may be asked to provide reservation data (known as OPI or other passenger information) if this information has been collected in the normal course of their business. This information could include but is not limited to, date and place of reservation and ticket issue, method of payment and baggage details.

Borders: Security

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what investigations she has undertaken in respect of *(a)* terrorism and *(b)* organised crime in relation to travel between (i) the South Coast and the Isle of Wight, (ii) mainland Great Britain and British offshore islands other than the Isle of Wight, (iii) Great Britain and Northern Ireland and (iv) Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in the last 12 months; and whether she plans to initiate a consultation on the use of the information-gathering powers under section 14 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. [268660]

Mr. Coaker: Criminal investigations across the UK are a matter for local chief officers of police, the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and other law enforcement agencies.

Section 14 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the police the power, subject to commencement through secondary legislation, to require a carrier, on request, to capture passenger and crew identity and other service data on domestic routes.

The Government are considering the use of these powers on routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland only. This is to strengthen counter-terrorism checks on international travellers who attempt to evade checks by travelling through the Republic of Ireland into or out of the UK. There are no plans to introduce these powers on other domestic UK routes, such as crossings to the Isle of Wight nor any other offshore islands.

The Government will consult fully on the detailed terms of any implementation legislation, including the forms of identity that would be needed, before the powers are introduced.

British Nationality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the effect on community cohesion of the Government initiative to require migrants to undertake community work before obtaining British citizenship. [272444]

Mr. Woolas: The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill sets out provision for speeding up the journey to British citizenship and permanent residence for migrants who contribute to the community through active citizenship. It will not be a mandatory requirement for migrants to undertake active citizenship. Those who choose to undertake active citizenship can speed up their journey by two years.

A design group was set up in autumn 2008 including representatives from the voluntary sector and local government to advise on the most effective way to operate active citizenship in practice.

A document was made available to the House in March 2009 to illustrate the Government's emerging thinking on active citizenship. Further details will be provided to the House when available.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of recent representations made by the Strangers

into Citizens campaign in respect of migrant workers and others whose residency status in the UK is undetermined; and if she will make a statement; [273997]

(2) what assessment she has made of recent representations to her Department by the church leaders in respect of migrant workers and others whose residency status in the UK is undetermined; and if she will make a statement. [273998]

Mr. Woolas: Recent high-profile campaigns, such as 'Strangers into Citizens' (supported by the Mayor of London, the former Archbishop of Westminster and others), have brought the debate over a proposed amnesty for illegal immigrants and undocumented migrants into the public arena. However, the Government have ruled out an amnesty and this remains our position.

An amnesty would be unfair to those who are here legally; it would act as a pull factor for even more attempts at illegal immigration; and it would counter the achievements by the UK Border Agency to toughen up our border and immigration system.

Closed Circuit Television

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1773W, on closed circuit television (CCTV), how many of the 44 recommendations in the national CCTV strategy have been implemented. [264898]

Jacqui Smith: Following publication of the long-term National CCTV Strategy in October 2007, good progress has been made in moving towards implementing the 44 recommendations. The recommendations targeted action from the police and local authorities to work together to improve public safety. The National Policing Improvement Agency took over responsibility for the Strategy in spring 2008. A National CCTV Strategy Programme Board has been established and has delivered five of these recommendations. The recommendations that have been implemented as at April 2009 are:

Recommendation 3:The Home Office Scientific Development Branch and the British Security Industry Authority (BSIA) now have a seat on National and International standards bodies.

Recommendation 4: Publication of a revised Operational Requirements Manual on 31 March 2009, along with a new CCTV image quality test target, will help educate and inform purchasers and end users regarding critical issues such as image quality.

Recommendation 16: The BSIA's new "Get Licensed" Booklet (published October 2008) means that all BSIA licensed operators should know how to use CCTV correctly and are vetted to the appropriate level.

Recommendation 24: New protocols mean that all police forces now have the capability of sharing Airwave telecommunications with local CCTV Managers and a significant number of police forces share intelligence with CCTV Control Centres. Such partnership working leads to the operation of public space CCTV providing best value to communities.

Recommendation 29: An evaluation of camera to archive network access and data archiving has led to a recommendation for the police and the wider Criminal Justice System to move towards the use of managed secure servers for the long-term storage and archiving of CCTV and other forms of digital evidence.

Since January 2009 the board has been reviewing the recommendations made in the Strategy. It is clear that, since the Strategy was written and published, some recommendations are either no longer appropriate or need reviewing. Therefore, in addition to the five already implemented, a further 12 will be implemented by the end of 2009 and an additional six by the end of 2010.

The remaining 21 recommendations are currently being reviewed to take account of comments and changes in technology since publication. Once that review is completed, I shall write to the hon. Member and let him know the outcome.

Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures are in place for the regulation of forensic practitioners after the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners ceases to operate and before a successor organisation is appointed; and if she will make a statement; [273039]

(2) whether she received representations from the Forensic Science Regulator prior to the decision not to provide transition funding to the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners; and if she will make a statement; [273040]

(3) what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners; and if she will make a statement; [273041]

(4) what mechanisms are in place to ensure the continuity of regulation of individual forensic practitioners following the closure of the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners; and if she will make a statement; [273042]

(5) on what date it was decided to cease funding the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners; and if she will make a statement. [273043]

Jacqui Smith: The Independent Forensic Science Regulator was appointed in February 2008 to regulate forensic science quality standards. He has published his "Review of the Options for the Accreditation of Forensic Practitioners" and "Quality Standards for the Providers of Forensic Science Services to the Criminal Justice System" and proposes to move to a more robust model of standards regulation that moves the focus from just forensic practitioners to include standards for organisations, practitioners and the science methods used. The forensic science laboratories are already accredited to testing international standards; accreditation that includes assessment of practitioner competence by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). The accreditation option is available to all practitioners. Registration with the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners was a voluntary process that left the majority of practitioners either choosing not to register or not able to register (front-line scientists in the laboratories who are covered by the UKAS accreditation could not register with the Council).

The Regulator was consulted prior to the decision not to provide transition funding. The Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners received in total some £2.9 million grant in aid with a clear requirement

to be self-financing by March 2010. Police withdrawal of support removed up to 70 per cent. of the Council's income.

The chief executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency wrote to the council on 4 February 2009 notifying his intention to cease any further funding. This was confirmed to the Council in a letter from my hon. Friend the Member for Tynemouth (Mr. Campbell) dated 27 February 2009 following a meeting with the chair and the chief executive of the council.

Cybercrime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were employed by the National High Tech Crime Unit in 2005 before its amalgamation into the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [272740]

Jacqui Smith: The number of people employed in the NHTCU varied from time to time but in July 2005 there were 54 persons employed in the NHTCU.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis consulted her on the policing of the demonstration in Parliament Square on 20 April 2009; and if she will make a statement. [271270]

Mr. Coaker: Police tactics and decisions on how to police demonstrations are a matter for the independent operational judgment of chief officers of police. The Home Office has received regular updates from the Metropolitan Police about the demonstration in Parliament Square.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated cost of policing the protests by Sri Lankan Tamils has been to date in Westminster Square. [272883]

Mr. Coaker: This is an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. The Home Office does not hold this information.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police days have been spent on policing the demonstration by Tamils in Parliament Square since demonstrators first assembled there; and what the cost has been to date. [272720]

Mr. Coaker: This is an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police.

The Home Office does not hold information about the cost of policing the demonstration.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on flights *(a)* within England and *(b)* outside the UK by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in 2008-09. [269692]

Mr. Woolas: Total expenditure by the Home Department on flights outside the UK by Ministers, special advisers and civil servants in 2008-09 was £1,406,733.

The annual cost of travel reflects both the size of the Home Office, as one of the largest Government Departments, and the scope and changing nature of the Department's business.

Last year, the Home Office grew with the establishment of the UK Border Agency, incorporating UK Visas and Customs, which operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year, at the UK border and in 135 countries around the world. This expansion took the total staff compliment of the Department to c.26,000.

Expenditure by the Home Department on flights within England in 2008-09 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as the cost of domestic flights is not broken down by nation or region.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code and the civil service management code respectively.

Departmental Computers

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr. Ainsworth) of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 29W, on departmental computers, whether her Department's system for the automatic switching off of all Departmental desktop devices overnight has been introduced. [272709]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has a project in progress to implement automatic switching off of computers after hours. This project has not yet reached the stage where the computers power down automatically.

Departmental Data Protection

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 161W, on data protection, which of her Department's agencies plans to appoint a board level senior information risk owner; whether any salary increase is associated with the position; and what the responsibilities of each post holder will be. [273877]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office and its agencies have appointed at board level senior information risk owners to manage information risk. These roles are part of the remit and responsibilities of existing members of the board and do not attract any additional remuneration.

The responsibilities of senior information risk owners are as follows:

To provide an annual report of the assessment of information risk;

To lead and foster a culture that values, protects and uses information for the public good;

Own the overall information risk policy and risk assessment process, test its outcome, and ensure it is used; and

Advise the accounting officer on the information risk aspects of his statement on internal control.

Essex Police Authority: Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation regulates Essex Police Authority; what amendments have been made to such legislation since its entry into force; what recent representations she has received on the operation of this legislation; which *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents she (i) has issued since July 2008 and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of this legislation; and if she will make a statement. [273979]

Mr. Coaker: Essex police authority, like all police authorities, is regulated by the Police and Justice Act 1996. There have been no changes to statutory instruments, or new ones issued, under this Act since the former Minister for Policing, Crime and Security, my right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty) replied to the hon. Member's question on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1348W, and I have not received any recent representations on any legislation. In relation to future changes, Home Office officials are currently reviewing the entire regulatory framework with the Association of Police Authorities. While I expect there will be some changes, the review is at too early a stage to say what those changes would be.

Human Trafficking

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the incidence of repeat trafficking of individuals. [272925]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The nature of human trafficking makes it difficult to provide a precise estimate of the number of victims in the United Kingdom, including those who are repeat victims. Our current estimate of the number of victims is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women in the UK who were victims of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre continues to work on providing a more up to date estimate of the number of victims. We will be in a position to provide a more up to date estimate of the overall number including repeat victims by the end of the year.

Human Trafficking: Babies

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to *(a)* identify and *(b)* prosecute offences related to the trafficking of babies into the UK. [273050]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of steps are being taken to identify and prosecute offenders trafficking babies into the UK. This includes the Government amendment to the Borders Citizenship and Immigration Bill which will enable the prosecution under trafficking legislation of those who bring babies and young children into the country for illegal purposes and where because of their age the role of the child is entirely passive.

The Government's Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking includes a measure to prevent the trafficking of babies and children into the UK for fraudulently acquiring welfare benefits.

Ongoing police-led operations at Heathrow and Gatwick continue to succeed in identifying trafficked children and ensuring their safety by working effectively with border staff and social workers.

Immigration

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department uses the category of non-UK born UK nationals in its immigration *(a)* policy and *(b)* statistics. [271791]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office publishes data in statistical publications based on the nationality of a migrant rather than their place of birth. Publishing data on non-UK born UK nationals would require a cross tabulation of nationality and country of birth which is not available from the majority of UKBA statistical datasets.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* are employed and *(b)* she estimates will be employed by the Independent Safeguarding Authority in July 2010. [269251]

Jacqui Smith: The ISA currently employs 184 staff and it is estimated it will employ between 200 and 250 full-time equivalent staff by July 2010.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the Independent Safeguarding Authority is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [269252]

Jacqui Smith: The budget for ISA for *(a)* 2009-10 is £12.9 million. The forecast cost requirement for ISA which will form the basis of a budget for *(b)* 2010-11 is £40 million and for *(c)* 2011-12 is £41.7 million.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's expenditure was on the Independent Safeguarding Authority on the latest date for which figures are available. [269253]

Jacqui Smith: The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) has been established to take barring decisions under the new Vetting and Barring Scheme. This is designed to improve public safeguarding by extending the scope of work with children and vulnerable adults covered by the barring regime, and providing independent decision making. The ISA is sponsored by the Home Office but funding is allocated jointly to the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health. Total expenditure on the scheme, including setting up the ISA was:

£ million

	2007-08	2008-09
Capital	17.4	11.9
Resource	20.5	27.7
Total	37.9	39.5

Internet: Children

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government plans to implement its commitment to ensure that all internet service providers use filters to block images of child abuse; and if she will make a statement. [272829]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government welcome the work done by industry to block images of child sexual abuse, resulting in 95 per cent. of consumer broadband lines being covered by blocking. The UK now hosts less than 1 per cent. of the total number of child abuse image sites on the internet, and when one is identified they are quickly closed down. We are currently looking at options to progress the final 5 per cent. and the Government will be setting out actions and time scales in due course.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration plans to reply to the e-mail from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 19 February 2009, on undocumented migrants. [274439]

Mr. Woolas: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 13 March 2009.

Offences Against Children

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the civil powers to protect children from internet grooming under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 have been used in each year since their entry into force in each police force area; and if she will make a statement. [271042]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are a range of preventative civil orders available under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to protect children from the risk of sexual harm rather than a specific civil power to protect against internet grooming. The number of times, for example, Sexual Offences Prevention Orders and Foreign Travel Orders have been used in each year and by each police area is reported in the annual MAPPA reports. The MAPPA reports are available at:

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

Police: Bureaucracy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forms will be *(a)* removed and *(b)* reduced in length as part of the Government's commitment to reduce the administrative burden on police forces; and on what date the revised version of each amended form will come into effect. [272992]

Jacqui Smith: The Policing Green Paper, published last year, committed the Government to reduce red tape and improve police processes to free officers up to deal with the issues that matter most to local people.

On 1 January 2009 changes to PACE Code A came in to effect which removed the requirement of police officers to complete the Stop and Account form, while retaining the recording of the ethnicity of those stopped for monitoring reasons.

On 16 February 2009 the Home Office published a review by its permanent secretary, Sir David Normington, which set out detailed proposals for delivering the Green Paper's commitment for the Home Office to reduce by up to 50 per cent. the amount of data it collects from police forces. This included the immediate removal of the requirement for police officers to complete time-sheets for the purposes of Activity Based Costing.

Action on forms is part of a wider approach to bureaucracy reduction, focusing on the simplification of policing processes and more effective management of risk. Jan Berry has been appointed as the independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate to challenge Government and the police service to make further progress on these issues, supported by a practitioner group of police officers and staff.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were made against the police in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend between 1997 and March 2004. [274016]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Figures held by the Home Office for complaints made against the police since 1997 to 2004 are for England and Wales.

Figures below force level are not available centrally.

Area	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
England and Wales	35,820	31,653	30,807	31,034	26,710	24,562	25,376
Essex	[1]	[1]	570	549	540	436	500
Southend	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

[1] Not held

Police: Firearms

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training police officers must undertake before being authorised to carry a gun. [273468]

Mr. Coaker: The training of authorised firearms officers is an operational matter for individual chief officers. There is a very detailed National Police Firearms Training Curriculum that all officers must undertake. Chief officers of police must decide how many trained firearms officers are needed within their force.

Police: G20

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers from forces in England and Wales other than the Metropolitan Police Service took part in policing the G20 summit. [270283]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 594W.

Police: Injuries

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England and Wales *(a)* have and *(b)* have not adopted the procedure on reviews of injury awards set out in Annex C to Home Office Circular 46/2004. [273140]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not held centrally. It is for individual police authorities to decide whether to adopt Home Office guidance in relation to carrying out their statutory duties under the Police Injury Benefit Regulations.

Police: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetables for the *(a)* development and *(b)* implementation of the revised Graduate Fast Track and High Potential Development Schemes for the police service are. [272927]

Jacqui Smith: The High Potential Development Scheme was revised and relaunched in 2008, with the first cohort selected by August 2008 and inducted in October 2008. A selection process for the 2009 cohort is currently under way.

The proposed Graduate Fast Track scheme is to be launched in 2010. Options for the delivery of the scheme are currently being explored by the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Police: Powers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she envisages for proposed legislative changes to give officers the power to *(a)* seize high value goods on arrest and *(b)* prevent criminals being able to dissipate them before trial. [273028]

Jacqui Smith: These provisions are contained in the Policing and Crime Bill which is currently before Parliament.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the new performance and development review process for police leaders will be *(a)* finalised and *(b)* implemented. [272926]

Jacqui Smith: The new Performance and Development Review (PDR) process for chief officers will be finalised by December this year, following discussions with stakeholders including the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities. It will be in place for the reporting year 2010-11.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the March 2009 target date set for the establishment of efficiency targets for police forces has been met by all police authorities. [273019]

Jacqui Smith: Police authorities are expected to set ambitious local targets for efficiency and productivity gains in the course of preparing their policing plans. Plans for the three years from April 2009 must be published by 30 June 2009.

A new programme of police authority inspections starting later this year will assess how well authorities are delivering their principal duties, including ensuring value for money and productivity. HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Audit Commission set out their proposals for joint inspection of police authorities in a consultation document published on 29 April (Police Authority Inspection, available at:

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/docs/police-authority-inspection

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions Taser stun guns have been *(a)* drawn, *(b)* arced as a demonstration warning, *(c)* applied in a drive stun and *(d)* fired by officers in each police force since 2003. [273533]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures on the use of Taser are published on a regular basis and can be found on the Home Office Scientific Development Branch website at

http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/hosdb/about-us/news/632275

Roadside Drug Testing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of roadside drug testing kits as an alternative to current testing methods. [273810]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are satisfied on the basis of independent advice that existing drug screening devices are not suitable to assist in the enforcement of drug driving offences.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which trade unions are recognised in her Department. [262088]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office recognises the trade unions FDA, Prospect, the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and the Immigration Service Union (ISU).

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 17 March 2009 regarding a constituent, reference M6652/9. [270952]

Mr. Woolas: A reply was sent by the UK Border Agency on 30 April 2009.

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how her Department *(a)* monitors and *(b)* evaluates the work and performance of the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC); when the UKHTC plans to publish its first annual report; and if she will place a copy of that report in the Library on publication. [272048]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Oversight of all work on human trafficking is carried out by the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group of which I am Chair.

Monitoring and evaluation of the UK Human Trafficking Centre's work is carried out by the Oversight and Advisory Board, chaired by CC Graeme Maxwell, the ACPO lead on Organised Immigration Crime, and on which the Home Office is represented.

The UKHTC plans to publish its annual report in the near future, a copy of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Foreign Workers: Pakistan

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people who were born in Pakistan were in employment in the UK in each year since 1997. [274430]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people who were born in Pakistan were in employment in the UK in each year since 1997. (274430)

The requested information is shown in the attached table.

The estimates are derived from estimates from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the 2007 and 2008 estimates are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the non-UK born employment figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

People aged 16 and over born in Pakistan in employment, three-month periods ending December, 1997 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Number
1997	76,000
1998	87,000
1999	102,000
2000	105,000
2001	108,000
2002	108,000
2003	101,000
2004	100,000
2005	112,000
2006	132,000
2007	160,000
2008[1]	**181,000

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV<5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Immigration: Commonwealth

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his most recent estimate is of the number of adult Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK. [274431]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning the most recent estimate of the number of adult Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK. (274431)

The Office for National Statistics collects data on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which covers residents of the UK. The latest estimates available are for the 12 month period of July 2007 to June 2008. These show that the estimated number of adults resident in the UK who have Commonwealth nationality was 1.15 million. The margin of error around this estimate is +/- 44,000.

Voluntary Organisations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his most recent estimate is of the number of third sector organisations; and how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to such organisations in each of the last five years. [271482]

Kevin Brennan: There is no single source for the number of third sector organisations; however latest figures from the NCVO's UK Civil Society Almanac 2009 report that in 2006-07 there were 170,900 general charities and an estimated 600,000 informal community organisations in the UK. Based on figures from the 2005-06 Annual Survey of Small Businesses by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform we estimate there to be at least 55,000 social enterprises in England.

The amount of public funding received by general charities (from both central and local government sources) is estimated in the NCVO's UK Civil Society Almanac 2009 as follows:

	£ billion
2003-04	9.7
2004-05	9.9
2005-06	11.5
2006-07	12.0
2007-08	[1]

[1] Data not available as yet.

Figures on the allocation of funding to third sector organisations are currently available for central Government expenditure up to 2005-06, and are estimated, as follows:

	£ billion
2003-04	5.0
2004-05	5.0
2005-06	5.4

Estimates of local government expenditure on the third sector are not available for each of the past five years.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Young People

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 20, on Olympic legacy (young people), when the feasibility study into the proposed university on the Olympic site is expected to begin; who is to undertake the study; how much has been budgeted for the study; and when the study is expected to be completed. [273715]

Tessa Jowell: A feasibility study on the potential for a Centre for Research and Learning on the Olympic Park is currently under way. This study is being conducted by consultants overseen by a Steering Group comprised of representatives from Government, the Greater London Authority and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The study will cost up to £100,000. This work is being carried out in parallel with the public consultation on the proposition launched in April. If the study shows that there is a supportive business case, a prospectus will be developed for publication later in the summer through which formal expressions of interest will be invited. The prospectus will set out a high level business case, and provide an overall summary of likely costs and delivery plan.

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the contribution of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 175, on international terrorism, who the lead Minister is for the consideration of a compensation scheme for UK citizens harmed in terrorist attacks overseas; what the terms of reference for that consultation are; and if she will make a statement. [273195]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics has responsibility for Humanitarian Assistance, and represents the interests of UK nationals affected by terrorism overseas.

Officials from across Government have recently formed a working group to scope what more can be done in the future to support victims of terrorism abroad. The group will consider a range of detailed options for doing so and report to Ministers.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental ICT

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1463W, on departmental ICT, (1) in what format the register which is to be replaced by the North Sea Licensing ICT project is held; [266672]

(2) how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies work on the (i) North Sea Licensing, (ii) Electricity Portal for electricity consents and (iii) Environmental emissions monitoring database ICT projects; [266673]

(3) on what date the *(a)* North Sea Licensing, *(b)* Electricity Portal for electricity consents and *(c)* Environmental emissions monitoring database ICT projects were commissioned; [266674]

(4) what the total monetary value is of the contracts to deliver the *(a)* North Sea Licensing, *(b)* Electricity Portal for electricity consents and *(c)* Environmental emissions monitoring database ICT projects; [266675]

(5) with which companies the Government has contracts to deliver the *(a)* North Sea Licensing, *(b)* Electricity Portal for electricity consents and *(c)* Environmental emissions monitoring database ICT projects. [266676]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: All of the IT projects and contracts referred to are managed by DECC. The current register is stored in an Oracle database using a bespoke format developed by the Department. The new register will still use an Oracle database but will utilise the emerging internet Extendable Mark Up language XML. The Department has been leading an exercise among regulatory bodies across the world to develop a common format for licensing and concessions data.

IT functions were outsourced some years ago and internal effort is now focused on project management and interface with user groups and industry. This means that the Department uses shared resources to manage these projects. Staff resources used, which are not full-time, are as follows: *(a)* North Sea Licensing—three staff, *(b)* Electricity Portal for electricity consents—three staff, *(c)* Environmental emissions monitoring database—three staff.

The dates the projects were commissioned are as follows: *(a)* North Sea Licensing—2008, *(b)* Electricity Portal—2006, *(c)* Environmental emissions database—2005.

All of these projects are multiple year projects with targets and break points. Updated cost estimates for the systems development are as follows:

North Sea Licensing—£331,000—Costs rose slightly above original estimates to incorporate an extra application (requested by the oil industry) to support electronic licence round applications.

Electricity Portal—£900,000—The first phase of the Electricity Portal was well received by the electricity industry and, in line with the initial vision, three additional applications have been added (the total cost estimate is therefore now higher than that quoted in the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 25 November 2008).

Environmental emissions database—£220,000.

Companies with contracts to deliver these projects are as follows: *(a)* North Sea Licensing—Fivium, *(b)* Electricity Portal—Informed Solutions *(c)* Environmental emissions database—Collabro.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of staff in his Department have received bonus payments since it was established; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment has been; and if he will make a statement. [258006]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was established on 3 October 2008, bringing together parts of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department

for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Since its establishment, 159 of the Department's staff have received bonus payments, equating to some 5.8 per cent. of the total number of staff. The total amount paid in bonuses is £75,600 and the largest single bonus payment is £8,000, whereas the average bonus payment is £928.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead of 23 January 2009 on fuel cells. [269997]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We responded to the hon. Member on 28 April. I apologise for the delay.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when state aid approval from the European Commission was *(a)* sought and *(b)* granted for his Department's guarantee scheme for asset-backed securities; [264363]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the value of assets to be guaranteed under the scheme for asset-backed securities. [264364]

Ian Pearson: In the 2009 Budget, the Government announced that the asset-backed securities (ABS) guarantee scheme is available for banks and building societies to use alongside the existing Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) scheme, to support their lending to the economy

http://budget.treasury.gov.uk

The scheme received state aid approval on 21 April 2009. The Government will keep the operation of the scheme under review.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what instructions he has issued to the Financial Services Authority on changes in the risk management *(a)* practices and *(b)* staffing of banks since September 2007. [265858]

Ian Pearson: The matters covered in this question are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member.

Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* cashable and *(b)* non-cashable efficiency savings non-ministerial departments will be required to make in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [272774]

(2) what *(a)* cashable and *(b)* non-cashable efficiency savings non-departmental public bodies will be required to make in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [272775]

Yvette Cooper: A departmental allocation showing how the Government will deliver over the course of the CSR £35 billion of value for money savings by 2010-11 was published at Budget 2009. Departments are responsible for setting budgets and value for money targets for their non-departmental public bodies to ensure that significant efficiency savings are made from NDPBs.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266750]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

(a) HMT

The Treasury is committed to improving energy efficiency of the Department's estate and reducing emissions year on year.

In March 2009, HM Treasury was awarded the Carbon Trust Standard.

(b) DMO

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency are achieved through general building management and include the suspension of the operation of unnecessary mechanical and electrical plant and switching off lights during non-working hours.

(c) HMRC

Over the last 12 months HM Revenue and Customs has completed a programme to obtain display energy certificates and advisory reports for their estate. HMRC will work to develop a business case to invest in a programme of improvements based on the recommendations in the reports.

Measures taken over the last year that have led to improvements in energy efficiency include:

1 Horse Guards Road, London:

adjustment of lighting system controls;

switch to daytime cleaning thus reducing the need for lighting after hours;

adjustment to the temperature at which heating is turned on; and

replacement of local radiator controls with more efficient ones.

Rosebery Court, Norwich:

replacement of chillers and associated controls;

adjustment to settings on Building Management System;

upgrade to air conditioning to server room; and

installation of power factor correction equipment.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the rates of vehicle excise duty for goods vehicles in each other EU member state; what each such rate is; and if he will make a statement; [270874]

(2) what EU regulations govern charges for ownership of goods vehicles in the UK; [270875]

(3) how much revenue was raised in vehicle excise duty from goods vehicles in each year since 1997; [270885]

(4) what the effect would be on the public purse of reducing vehicle excise duty for lorries to the EU minimum level in 2009-10. [270886]

Angela Eagle: Vehicle excise duty (VED) for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) has been frozen since 2001, to provide support to the road haulage industry. HGVs with a Reduced Pollution Certificate qualify for a reduced rate of VED, for achieving early compliance with mandatory European Union air quality standards. VED rates for each category of HGV are set out in DVLA form V149.

Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of HGVs for the use of certain infrastructure sets out minimum levels of tax for HGVs in the EU.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has not historically provided disaggregated VED receipts to the Treasury, and so the Treasury does not have historical data on revenue raised from VED on goods vehicles alone. The total revenue raised from VED for all vehicles in each year since 1997 is as follows:

	Revenue (£ million)
1997-98	4,500
1998-99	4,900
1999-2000	4,700
2000-01	4,900
2001-02	4,400
2002-03	4,400
2003-04	4,700
2004-05	4,700
2005-06	5,000
2006-07	5,100
2007-08	5,400
2008-09	5,600

VED for HGVs is set according to the weight, chassis type and number of axles on a vehicle. Minimum levels of tax for HGVs as set out in directive 1999/62/EC are set according to similar variables. However, the weight limits in VED do not correspond to the weight limits as set by the directive. Furthermore, the directive sets different rates for vehicles depending on their suspension type, whereas rates of VED are not dependant on suspension type. In order to set all HGV VED rates at the minimum level permitted by the directive, it would be necessary to reform the entire structure of HGV VED. The Government have therefore not calculated the potential revenue effect of reducing VED rates for HGVs.

Fred Goodwin

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress is being made in investigating whether some of Sir Fred Goodwin's pension may be clawed back. [274416]

Ian Pearson: With the agreement of UK Financial Investments Ltd., Sir Philip Hampton, the new chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, has appointed a senior independent QC to carry out a full legal investigation of the issues relating to Sir Fred Goodwin's pension. This investigation is ongoing.

Knowledge Network Project

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 136W, on the knowledge network project, what procedures exist to enable civil servants to access the manuals and guidance on how to use the Knowledge Network. [273061]

Angela Eagle: There is no single specific guidance document on using the Knowledge Network. Guidance notes and manuals may be produced by individual departments. Buying Solutions is unable to comment on how such manuals and guides are accessed by staff.

Members: Correspondence

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Ashford of 23 October 2008, reference 07649/2008. [266387]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 18 February 2009 on behalf of Mr. Drew of Coalpit Heath, acknowledged by his Department with the reference: 1/67589/2009. [273379]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 24 March 2009 from the hon. Member for Woking on his constituent Mr. P. Burdett. [274330]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 18 March 2009, on the Lloyds Banking Group (PO Ref: 1/69452/2009). [274437]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of employer national insurance contributions increases announced in the Pre-Budget Report 2008 on the level of employment. [269936]

Mr. Timms: Changes to tax and national insurance are informed by a wide range of considerations, and are themselves one of many factors that influence the labour market. The UK has an open and flexible labour market with the Government continuing to take steps to support employment.

Previous national insurance changes of a magnitude similar to those proposed for 2011-12 do not appear to have had a significant impact on employment.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Peter Luff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 259158, tabled by the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire on 23 February 2009 on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme; and what the reasons for the time taken to respond are. [274162]

Ian Pearson: The hon. Member's question (259158) was transferred to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 26 February. I replied in my capacity as Economics and Business Minister on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 417W.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 340W, on the Barnett formula, whether he has set a date for the publication of his Department's factual paper on the Barnett formula. [269709]

Yvette Cooper: No date has yet been set.

Public Expenditure: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the 2009 Budget on *(a)* young people and *(b)* families resident in Coventry. [272954]

Mr. Timms: The Government's aim are that no young person should be permanently disadvantaged by the recession and that all young people should be given the support needed to make or maintain a connection to the labour market. Budget 2009 announced that every young person between 18 and 24 will be guaranteed a job, work placement or work-related skill training for at least six months after claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months.

Budget 2009 announced an additional investment of £251 million in 2009-10 for the education and training of 16 and 17-year-olds. This will provide an extra 54,500 student places in the next academic year, ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to obtain the skills they will need to succeed.

Young people in work will also receive additional support from an increase in the personal allowance from April 2009, worth £26 to a basic rate taxpayer. The Government are also supporting young people looking to enter the housing market for the first time. Since September 2008, the Government have launched homebuy direct, helping first-time buyers get on the property ladder, committed to bring forward spending to deliver new social housing, and announced an extension of the stamp duty land tax holiday for properties under £175,000 to the end of 2009.

Information on the impact of Budget 2009 on specific regions can be found on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_pn_westmidlands_26.pdf

Regional Planning and Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was spent on the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration; what the staffing costs of the review were; and which *(a)* departments and *(b)* organisations contributed to the review; [265255]

(2) how many of his Department's staff members were involved in supporting the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration. [265383]

Angela Eagle: The review was lead by the Treasury, the then Department for Trade and Industry, and the Department for Communities and Local Government. A full list of the organisations that contributed to the review can be found in Annex B of the published report, a copy of which is in the Library and can be accessed via the Treasury's public website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

As there were fewer than five staff working directly on the review, it would be inappropriate to provide specific details.

The costs of those working full time on the review were £225,431. That figure does reflect support provided by other staff across the Treasury, whose costs are not available separately.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost is of information technology infrastructural changes associated with the implementation of HM Revenue and Customs Workforce Change programme. [273231]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Workforce Change programme will result in accommodation savings of over £230 million by 2011-12 as well as wider business efficiency savings delivered by re-organising staff into larger teams in a fewer offices. In the process of delivering these long-term savings, the Workforce Change programme has involved over 20,000 staff moving location within HMRC in order to release surplus office space, incurring associated one-off IT and telephony costs of approximately £12.7 million to date.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people work at *(a)* Shrewsbury, *(b)* Ludlow, *(c)* Oswestry and *(d)* Welshpool HM Revenue and Customs office; how many jobs are expected to be lost with the closure of each office; and what assessment has been made of the economic effect of each closure on the local area. [273235]

Mr. Timms: On 1 April 2009 there were 26 staff working in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Shrewsbury, 19 in the Ludlow office, 32 in the Oswestry office and 30 in the Welshpool office.

HMRC is committed to working with all staff affected by office closures to find alternative employment arrangements wherever possible, and until this process is concluded it is not possible to say how many staff may leave the civil service.

Impact assessments were prepared for each office prior to the closure decision, to assess the impact of closure on the local economy, as well as on HMRC's staff and customers. Those assessments for the offices concerned concluded that, as in each case HMRC employees comprised less than one per cent. of the total numbers employed in the local authority area, the economic impact would be small.

Revenue and Customs: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the effect on HM Revenue and Customs' expenditure of its vacation of two floors in Crewe House, Crewe in the 12 months following vacation. [273639]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) vacation of two floors of Crewe House by spring 2010 and the remainder of the building by 2011 will contribute to cumulative estate savings of over £230 million during the period April 2007 to March 2012. Specific estate savings figures for Crewe House cannot be supplied for reasons of commercial sensitivity relating to the accommodation and facility contract between HMRC and its business partner, Mapeley.

Estate savings are only part of the overall savings HMRC expects to achieve as a result of improved efficiencies.

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Tamworth constituency have paid less stamp duty land tax from the stamp duty land tax holiday since it began. [274133]

Ian Pearson: Data on property transactions up to 2007—the most recent year for which figures are published—can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/index.htm

These data include property transactions by type of property and price as well as the number and value of property transactions broken down by parliamentary constituency. Information on property transactions in Tamworth parliamentary constituency is included in the published parliamentary constituency tables.

Taxation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much is owed by businesses in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* the UK in respect of schemes to defer payment of liability for (i) pay as you earn, (ii) value added tax and (iii) corporation tax to mitigate the effects of the economic downturn. [270673]

Mr. Timms: On 24 November 2008, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that HMRC had launched a new Business Payment Support Service (BPSS) to allow viable businesses in temporary financial difficulty time to pay their tax bills to a timetable they could afford.

In the period up to 3 May 2009, the total value of time to pay agreed under the BPSS scheme for the United Kingdom amounted to over £2.2 billion of which approximately £320 million was for PAYE, £930 million for VAT and £380 million for corporation tax, helping over 100,000 businesses.

The total value of time to pay agreed under the scheme for Staffordshire in the same period was £28 million. HMRC is unable to disaggregate this figure further without incurring disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information technology contracts have been entered into by the Valuation Office Agency or its representatives on its behalf in the last 36 months. [272542]

Mr. Timms: The primary ICT contracts for the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) are accessed HM Revenue and Customs' Aspire and Sprint contracts.

Outside of these contracts, the VOA has, in the last 36 months, entered into a small system contract with TMS Data Capture to trail a time recording application—called Screen Time—for three months at a cost of £69,100. This project is designed to add capability to allow more detailed analysis of resource usage and costs within the VOA to improve resource allocation, decision-making and performance management.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Brazil: Politics and Government

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Brazilian government on public security in shanty towns in Brazil and the effects of lack of security on *(a)* children and *(b)* other residents. [273336]

Gillian Merron: The Government have been funding activities by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) specializing in security sector reform in "favelas" or shanty towns. As part of this, they have worked with police to train them in community policing methods and with educational institutions for children.

My noble Friend the then Leader of the House of Lords, Baroness Amos, and the then Minister for Latin America, my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) visited favelas during their visits to Brazil in 2006 and 2007 respectively. They discussed conditions, including security, with the local government, local communities and NGOs.

We also work with other EU embassies on a regular dialogue with Brazil on the full range of human rights issues and will have the opportunity to feed in views at the 8 June 2009 EU-Brazil Human Rights dialogue.

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 85-88WS, on departmental expenditure limits, what assessment he has made to the merits of establishing reciprocal arrangements with the country of origin when visas are offered gratis to fans visiting the UK to attend sporting events; and if he will make a statement. [261736]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Gratis visas may be issued in a range of circumstances, commonly as a matter of international courtesy. This means that the visa applicant does not pay a fee for the application to be considered but another Government Department reimburses the Home Office for the lost fee income.

In May 2008 we accepted 2,169 short-term visit visa applications from fans of F.C. Zenit St Petersburg travelling to Manchester for the UEFA cup final without a fee being paid by the applicant, normally £65. This was in part in recognition of the waiver of visa requirement by the Russian Government for fans of Chelsea F.C. and Manchester United F.C. travelling to the UEFA Champions League final in Moscow later in the same month.

This was an unusual set of circumstances and no further consideration has been given to establishing permanent reciprocal arrangements with other countries.

G20: Greater London

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* coaches for delegates and the media and *(b)* other transportation costs for the London Summit on 2 April 2009. [270808]

Gillian Merron: £9,165 was spent on coaches for delegates and £30,310 for the media.

Other transportation costs totalled £81,924.02. This figure covers the provision of cars for delegates, coaches and cars for staff and interpreters' journeys and a ferry service for the media across the dock from ExCeL to their broadcasting positions at Millennium Mills.

Middle East: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what involvement UK officials have in the US strategic review of defence and security policy in the greater Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [271040]

David Miliband: The UK was asked to contribute to the review of American defence and security policy conducted during 2008. A team with a wide range of thematic and geographic experience drawn from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence participated in the review.

As the review has now been completed, the UK personnel have returned to other duties. However, we retain a number of UK personnel seconded to US Government Departments, including on the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

USA: Balkans

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his US counterpart about the merits of a US Special Envoy for the Balkans. [272915]

David Miliband: We remain in close touch with the US Administration on Balkans policy, and have discussed at official level the prospects for the appointment of a US Special Envoy to the Balkans. To date no such appointment has been made.

We will continue to work closely with US representatives, in both Washington and the region, on policy towards the Balkans.

JUSTICE

Court Funds Office

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value of cash deposits held by the Court Funds Office was at the latest date for which figures are available. [273673]

Bridget Prentice: As at 1 May 2009 the Court Funds Office held £4.6 billion for 155,183 accounts.

Crown Dependencies: Armed Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many troops from Crown Dependencies are serving in Afghanistan. [272630]

Mr. Hutton: I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number of troops from British Crown Dependencies serving in Afghanistan are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Debts: Enforcement Restriction Orders

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of enforcement restriction orders issued by the judicial system on the payment protection insurance market. [273677]

Bridget Prentice: The statutory provisions creating the Enforcement Restriction Order (ERO) are not yet in force. EROs would be available to support those with short-term financial problems only and only where the court was satisfied that there were realistic prospects of recovery that would allow normal commitments to be met within six months.

In view of these tight qualifying criteria it is unlikely that many people would qualify for such an order. On that basis it would have a negligible impact on the payment protection insurance market.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials from his Department of each *(a)* grade and *(b)* directorate have flown by British Airways on official business in each of the last five years; what the (i) destination and (ii) cost of the ticket was in each case; what his policy is on the use of British Airways by his Department's staff; and if he will make a statement. [270440]

Mr. Straw: The number and cost of flights with British Airways made by officials in the Ministry on official business in the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 was as follows:

	Number of flights	*Cost (£)*
2007-08	790	295,628
2008-09	804	273,064

Details of the destination and costs of individual flights, including refunds, have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The information provided is taken from the Ministry's procurement system and reflects flights booked through the Ministry's travel management company, the use of which is mandated in all but exceptional circumstances. The figures exclude any flights with British Airways where, exceptionally, members of staff have booked their own flights and been reimbursed via an expense claim. The information provided from procurement records is likely to represent approximately 95 per cent. of all flights.

The information provided also identifies whether flights relate to those parts of the Ministry of Justice that used to be in the Department for Constitutional Affairs (ex-DCA) or to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). Further breakdown to Directorate level is available only at disproportionate cost. The grade of each official flying with British Airways could also be determined only at disproportionate cost. The Ministry's procurement system has recorded costs incurred with travel carriers on a central basis only since the commencement of the current travel management contract in January 2007. Information prior to that date is held locally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry's policy is that air travel should only be used where there is a cost advantage from savings of subsistence and official time or if urgency justifies the additional cost. Staff are expected to travel economy class on flights up to 2.5 hours. On flights in excess of 2.5 hours staff at senior civil level (directors) and above may travel business class and other staff economy class. Where it is necessary to fly both outward and inward flights in one day or the flight lasts longer than four hours, budget holders have discretion to authorise a higher class of travel.

The Ministry does not have a specific policy on the use of British Airways. The travel management company engaged by the Ministry is required to identify the most cost effective means of supplying the requested journey, taking account of the timing of flights and the cost of official time. The cost-effectiveness of flights supplied is actively monitored to ensure that value for money is obtained.

Driving Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals were convicted of each driving offence in each year since 1997. [273985]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to motor vehicles in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the following tables.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1,2]

Offence type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Causing death or bodily harm	340	343	260	305	216	373
Dangerous driving	5,926	5,742	5,243	5,184	5,254	6,279
Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	100,202	93,116	89,364	85,829	84,742	90,485
Careless driving	55,758	52,144	46,763	41,323	36,907	33,579
Accident offences	17,988	17,258	16,427	15,796	15,895	16,284
Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicle	30,289	30,031	29,498	25,400	24,391	25,802
Driving licence related offences	216,406	226,155	234,893	236,381	235,750	258,411
Vehicle insurance offences	293,132	297,626	300,077	300,170	293,889	317,429
Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	204,647	180,649	148,062	150,426	147,164	158,173
Work record and employment offences	14,327	15,026	13,514	12,337	9,559	8,780
Operator's licence offences	2,027	1,931	1,637	1,599	1,264	1,145
Vehicle test offences	177,230	178,515	180,025	178,703	171,279	183,134
Fraud, forgery etc., associated with vehicle or driver records	11,301	10,256	10,308	8,742	8,264	7,811
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	55,959	53,479	46,430	37,731	31,019	27,656
Speed limit offences	132,796	153,495	153,573	141,376	135,572	124,554
Motorway offences (other than speeding)	2,916	2,451	1,950	2,636	2,049	2,401
Neglect of traffic directions	33,164	31,968	30,923	30,875	29,061	27,127
Neglect of pedestrian rights	6,322	6,328	5,318	4,152	3,435	3,010
Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	15,131	16,219	15,958	13,331	13,110	12,442
Lighting offences	19,047	18,678	17,288	14,469	11,535	11,274
Noise offences	4,179	4,103	3,876	3,334	2,633	2,268
Load offences	14,366	14,202	11,995	10,928	9,277	7,389
Offences peculiar to motor cycles	2,099	2,155	2,053	2,114	2,176	1,848
Miscellaneous motoring offences	47,988	40,550	39,043	32,002	40,358	45,822
Total	1,463,540	1,452,420	1,404,478	1,355,143	1,314,799	1,539,576

Offence type	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Causing death or bodily harm	371	384	413	381	393
Dangerous driving	6,788	6,633	5,764	5,239	5,016
Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	93,701	96,238	93,718	92,671	89,223
Careless driving	31,686	30,495	30,102	28,431	38,508
Accident offences	17,089	16,272	15,162	14,466	14,509
Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicle	24,232	21,798	19,194	17,664	17,444
Driving licence related offences	292,751	303,393	267,533	228,277	184,826
Vehicle insurance offences	354,030	359,730	322,095	292,720	249,017

Offence type	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	205,070	193,780	151,762	118,743	91,599
Work record and employment offences	8,263	6,379	6,070	5,282	4,753
Operator's licence offences	753	697	675	649	495
Vehicle test offences	196,237	181,686	144,238	107,629	61,088
Fraud, forgery etc., associated with vehicle or driver records	7,553	6,679	4,556	3,651	2,694
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	25,002	23,689	20,659	17,831	15,247
Speed limit offences	139,998	143,169	160,391	154,427	148,607
Motorway offences (other than speeding)	1,965	2,361	2,981	2,395	1,946
Neglect of traffic directions	28,724	30,128	28,479	30,360	29,488
Neglect of pedestrian rights	3,212	3,196	2,938	2,465	2,305
Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	13,243	10,312	8,192	6,758	4,425
Lighting offences	10,565	9,676	8,959	7,142	5,348
Noise offences	1,805	1,478	1,198	925	683
Load offences	7,701	6,802	5,678	5,103	4,969
Offences peculiar to motor cycles	1,996	2,141	3,101	2,943	2,228
Miscellaneous motoring offences	66,841	82,358	80,077	72,367	75,280
Total	1,539,474	1,383,935	1,218,519	1,373,476	1,050,191

[1] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—evidence and analysis unit.

Electoral Register: Overseas Residence

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many expatriate British electors are registered to vote in general and European elections. [273467]

Mr. Wills: A British citizen who is not resident in the UK is able to vote in UK and European parliamentary elections for up to 15 years after leaving the UK provided that they were included in a register of parliamentary electors where they were last resident. In addition, a British citizen who was resident in the UK within the last 15 years but who was too young to be included in a register of parliamentary electors before they left is also able to vote.

Eligible overseas electors wishing to register for such elections must complete an application and declaration to be included in the category of 'overseas elector' in the electoral register. This category might include, for example, British citizens who may be studying or working abroad and those on working holidays. According to ONS figures, as of 1 December 2008 13,632 electors can register at any time up to 11 days before a poll this figure may increase in the run up to an election.

Electoral Register: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on underperforming electoral registration departments, as referred to in the Electoral Commission's recent report, Performance Standards for electoral registration officers in Great Britain; and if he will make it his policy directly to inform each hon. Member representing a constituency in an underperforming local authority area that their local authority is underperforming. [272731]

Mr. Wills: On 22 April 2009 the Electoral Commission published its first set of results in respect of its performance standards regime for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in Great Britain.

Each ERO self assessed themselves against the 10 standards grouped into four broad subject areas:

Completeness and accuracy of electoral registration records

integrity of the registration process

encouraging participation in the registration process and

planning and organisation.

The aim of the performance standards is to identify best practice by those EROs meeting or exceeding the standards and to allow steps to be taken to improve the performance of those who have not meet the standards. We want all EROs to perform at the level of the best.

I intend to discuss the result of performance standards for EROs when I next meet with the Commission. I do not intend to make it my policy to inform each hon. Member representing a constituency in an underperforming local authority area that their local authority is underperforming. It is the Electoral Commission's role under the performance standards regime to monitor and analyse the performance of EROs and we do no wish to duplicate that.

I understand that the Electoral Commission has published comprehensive detailed information about the 2008 assessment of performance by each ERO in Great Britain against the performance standards on its website. I would urge all Members to take the time to examine the results for their respective areas.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which legal firms have received public money in support of an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in which the Government is a party since May 1997; and how much each has received. [274033]

Mr. Wills: The Council of Europe has its own legal aid scheme to support applicants at the European Court of Human Rights. The Government do not hold statistics on the specific disbursement of money from this scheme to applicants and their representatives. UK public funding is not available for proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights.

Land Registry

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to box 3.E of the final report of the Operational Efficiency programme, by what means the Land Registry will develop opportunities for the provision of wider commercial services and products. [274199]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry currently provides add value products and services under the following headings; consultancy services, data services, electronic and online services and register services.

Land Registry is embarking upon the implementation of an organisational strategy under the heading of 'Customer Engagement Management'. Central to this strategy will be the implementation of an internal framework to bring together people process and systems capable of identifying, developing and delivery appropriate products and services that meet current and future customer needs through gaining increased customer knowledge.

Land Registry will proactively use this approach to identify opportunities that deliver added value products and services to their customers; this will further harness the power of customer knowledge to align Land Registry's core business around the changing needs of its customers.

Legal Profession: Honours

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which members of legal firms who have acted for those bringing cases against the Government in the European Court of Human Rights since May 1997 have received an honour. [274284]

Mr. Wills: The Government do not keep a central record of which legal firms have acted for applicants in cases against the United Kingdom at the European Court of Human Rights. Where an application has resulted in an admissibility decision or judgment by the Court—these are available publicly on the Court's website at:

http://www.echr.coe.int—

the applicant's representatives may be named in the decision or judgment. The names of individuals who have received honours are published in the London Gazette.

Probation: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many trainee probation officers he expects to qualify in the South Wales probation area in 2009; and how many permanent posts for such trainees there will be in that year; [273756]

(2) how many trainee probation officers he expects to qualify in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* England in 2009; [273828]

(3) how many trainee probation officers he expects to qualify in Dyfed Powys probation area in 2009; and how many posts there will be for newly-qualified officers in that area of qualification; [273829]

(4) how many trainee probation officers he expects to qualify in Gwent probation area in 2009; and how many posts there will be for newly-qualified officers in that area of qualification; [273830]

(5) how many trainee probation officers he expects to qualify in North Wales probation area in 2009; and how many posts there will be for newly-qualified officers in that area of qualification; [273831]

(6) what estimate he has made of the cost of training a probation officer. [273832]

Mr. Hanson: The number of trainee probation officers (TPOs) due to qualify in each area requested is shown in the table.

Area	*Number of TPOs due to qualify in 2009*
Dyfed-Powys	7
Gwent	9
North Wales	7
South Wales	21

44 TPOs are due to qualify in Wales in October 2009. A further 469 TPOs are due to qualify in England.

The newly appointed Directors of Offender Management will ensure that Probation Area resourcing and work force plans will include planning for TPO employment.

The current cost of salary and training a probation officer over the two year training programme is approximately £74,000.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1015W, on departmental public expenditure, what proportion of the International Inspiration Programme budget his Department's grant represents; and whether this further funding is classified as official development assistance. [272378]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's £7.4 million contribution is equivalent to around 31 per cent. of the £23.79 million in funding committed so far to the International Inspiration Programme.

The programme is considered to be ODA-eligible in line with the relevant directives laid out by the OECD Development Assistance Committee.

Pakistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* locally-engaged and *(b)* UK-based staff his Department employs in Pakistan; and how many of these (i) are based in and (ii) travel to (A) the North West Frontier Province and (B) Federally Administered Tribal areas in connection with their responsibilities. [272923]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) no longer publicises staff numbers for country offices, following an assessment of DFID's work in insecure environments by the National Audit Office in October 2008, and a range of improvements to our security policies and procedures.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many development and education projects funded by his Department are located in Swat; and if he will make a statement; [272729]

(2) whether any *(a)* schools and *(b)* educational materials funded by his Department in Swat have been destroyed by the Taliban. [272730]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) do not currently have projects that are specifically focused on Swat or the neighbouring districts that are most affected by conflict. We are providing support across the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) for the delivery of basic services, including education, health, water, sanitation and micro-finance. In some places these services have been significantly disrupted by conflict, although in most of NWFP services are still being provided as normal. We are closely monitoring the situation with the provincial government and other development partners.

None of the schools or education materials funded by DFID have been destroyed by the Taliban.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* programmes and *(b)* projects his Department supports in (i) the North West Frontier Province and (ii) the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan; and how much his Department gave to each 2008-09. [272921]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supported the following programmes and projects targeted directly in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan during 2008-09:

Programme	*Expenditure during 2008-09[1] (£)*
NWFP Education Programme	13,600,000
NWFP Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	1,069,989
NWFP Provincial Reforms Programme	1,590,058
FATA Secretariat Capacity Building Programme	280,598
Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme[2]	3,584,267
Humanitarian Support Programme[3]	2,000,000
Total	22,134,912

[1] Provisional
[2] Programme shared equally between NWFP and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Only the NWFP component is shown here.
[3] Covers both NWFP and FATA.

In addition, in 2008-09, DFID supported the following nationwide programmes which helped provide services in NWFP and FATA as well as in other parts of Pakistan:

Programme	*Expenditure during 2008-09[1] (£)*
Poverty Reduction Budget Support	30,000,000
National Health and Population Facility	15,004,579
Polio Eradication Initiative	5,000,000
Maternal and Newborn Health Programme	10,694,027
Achieving Universal Access to Control HIV/AIDS	3,547,882
Rural Support Programmes Network	1,746,581
Financial Inclusion Programme	10,011,940
Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan Refugees	1,000,000
Total	77,203,309

[1] Estimated.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what effect recent events in the Swat valley have had on his Department's operations in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [272922]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Insecurity in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), including Swat district, has a major effect on both the provincial government's capacity to deliver services and the international community's ability to provide development assistance. We are monitoring the situation closely and are in discussion with the provincial government and other development partners.

The Department for International Development (DFID) do not currently have projects that are specifically focused on Swat or neighbouring districts that are most affected by conflict. We are providing support across the province for the delivery of services, including education, health, water, sanitation and micro-finance. In some places these services have been significantly disrupted, although in most of NWFP services are still being provided as normal. As we design new programmes, we undertake detailed assessments of conflict, security and risk in order to develop effective approaches to the delivery of basic services in conflict affected areas. In direct response to the consequences of conflict in NWFP and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas we have so far provided £12 million of humanitarian assistance to help those who have been displaced from their homes.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian aid the UK has provided to Sri Lanka in the last 10 years. [273007]

Mr. Michael Foster: This information is available in the Department for International Development's (DFID) Statistics on International Development publication. Copies of this are available in House of Commons Libraries and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of international aid agencies on the provision of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka; [273008]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on the provision of humanitarian aid to that country; [273010]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of non-governmental organisations on the provision of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka. [273011]

Mr. Michael Foster: I and other UK Ministers have had many such discussions to try to improve the provision of aid to Sri Lanka. These include my visit to Sri Lanka on 27-28 April where I met the Sri Lankan Government, international agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). I pressed on the Government of Sri Lanka the need to: ensure international humanitarian access to those in the conflict zone; protect people from disproportionate use of force; and ensure early return for those who have been displaced. I also pressed the Government of Sri Lanka to improve the conditions for people in displacement camps, especially through allowing international organisations and NGOs better access. I updated the House on my visit and other recent developments in a written statement on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS.

Zimbabwe: Death

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have died of starvation in Zimbabwe in the last 12 months. [273108]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no figures available for the number of people who have died of starvation in Zimbabwe in the last 12 months as public record-keeping systems have, in many cases, broken down. According to the most recent UN nutritional assessments, malnutrition rates have continued to remain below emergency levels. Death from disease (including HIV/AIDS, TB, cholera and other gastro-intestinal conditions) is far more likely than starvation.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) Zimbabwe programme is aimed at tackling the whole range of life-threatening and other urgent challenges facing ordinary Zimbabweans. We provided £49 million in aid to the people of Zimbabwe in 2008-09, none of which passed through government hands.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Aviation: Radio Frequencies

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the International Telecommunications Union on the implications for aeronautical radio spectrum in the UK of introducing administered incentive pricing. [272232]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has not had recent discussions with representatives of the International Telecommunication Union, on the implications for aeronautical radio spectrum in the UK of introducing administered incentive pricing. Discussions of this nature are a matter for the regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which represents the UK Government on matters of international spectrum policy, including in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Bankruptcy: Wales

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bankruptcies there have been in each business sector in Wales since 2000. [272772]

Mr. McFadden: Statistics for individual bankruptcies attributable to trading-related debts are not readily available broken down by the industry sector of the business for Wales separately. Corporate insolvency statistics in Wales are similarly not available by industry sector.

Headline insolvency statistics published by the Insolvency Service cover England and Wales as a whole, and these, including the latest industrial breakdowns may be found here:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/200905/index.htm

Business: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps his Department has taken to foster links between businesses and the third sector. [272858]

Ian Pearson: Social enterprises have a valuable role to play in our economy and BERR is fully committed to creating an environment in which all enterprise, including social enterprise, can thrive and grow.

Examples of Government support mechanisms to help achieve this include 'Real Help for Businesses' and 'Solutions for Business', which is the Government's streamlined portfolio of business support products, providing tailored advice to help social and other enterprises start and grow.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied the Secretary of State to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273069]

Mr. McFadden: One official and no special advisers.

Conditions of Employment: Carers

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on implementing the National Carers Strategy with respect to *(a)* flexible working practices for carers including the definition of carer in flexible working legislation, *(b)* awareness among employers and carers of flexible working and *(c)* the production of a good practice guide for employers on supporting carers; and if he will make a statement. [250812]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise for the delay in responding.

The following details work under way in relation to the progress on the Carers Strategy.

(a) Flexible working practices for carers including the definition of carer in flexible working legislation

The Work and Families Act 2006 extended the right to request flexible working to carers of adults where the person cared for is a relative or lives at the same address. This definition covers approximately 80 per cent. of carers. BERR will review the definition of carer in relation to flexible working once the impact of the current extension has been evaluated. This is part of the short to medium-term commitments in the Carers Strategy to be undertaken by 2011.

(b) Awareness among employers and carers of flexible working

The Government are actively promoting the right to request flexible working, focusing primarily on employers, carers and parents. Activities are being spread over 12 months encompassing media opportunities, ministerial events and using publications to reach the various target audiences. The campaign is both raising awareness of the individuals' right to request flexible working and helping employers understand how to handle such requests through more effective use of tools and advice available on BusinessLink.Gov.

Improved guidance on the Businesslink website aims to help employers implement flexible working and provides all the information they need to comply with the law including free online forms and guidance tools to help deal with requests—helping save time, money and stress.

The Directgov website provides practical information and advice for individuals including their rights under the law and how to make a request.

In the run up to 6 April 2009 the Government contracted 890,000 SMEs to highlight the change in the law and to publicise the guidance available at

www.businesslink.gov.uk

This aimed to make sure businesses know where to find the free help available and could avoid having to pay for professional external advice, thereby making the implementation of flexible working in the workplace easier and simpler to manage.

Also in the run-up to 6 April Directgov ran a campaign encompassing magazine advertorials, radio slots and television advertising, and highlighting the guidance and advice available on

www.direct.gov.uk

Flexible working messages were included as part of this campaign. The Government also engaged with key stakeholders including Working Families, CarersUK, the Scouts and the TUC to promote the flexible messages to employers.

(c) The production of a good practice guide for employers on supporting carers

Employers for Carers, facilitated by Carers UK and led by a core group of employers, was formally launched in January 2009. Their work includes identifying and promoting the business benefits of supporting carers in the workplace and offering employers practical support to develop and benchmark good practice. They aim to create a culture that supports carers in and into work. Government are working with groups such as Carers UK and Employers for Carers to assess the best way of disseminating and promoting a good practice guide as agreed in the Carers Strategy.

Contracts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that companies which do not complete work which they have contracted to undertake do not receive the full value of payments specified in such *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector contracts. [262280]

Ian Pearson: Where there is not full or satisfactory receipt of the required outputs, full payment should not be made and this commercial position is reinforced in Government's recommended model terms and conditions of contract for goods and services. These model terms also include a range of remedies available to the procuring authority in the event of a contractor's failure to meet the required specification.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bank branches the Secretary of State has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [261143]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State visited a branch of Natwest at 1 Princes Street, London, to mark the start of RBS's regional fund schemes for local entrepreneurs.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many laptops were provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was. [266346]

Mr. McFadden: The Department uses two types of laptop device. One provides secure remote access to the Departments network from the UK and overseas; the other is a standalone model with encryption. The figures in the following table show the number of laptops in use at the end of each financial year.

	Device Type	*Ministers*	*Special Advisers*	*Civil Servants*
2005	Secure	0	8	1,500
2006	Remote	0	8	800
2007	Access	1	3	653
2008	Laptops	0	1	613
2009		0	1	568
2005	Standalone	0	0	*1,000
2006	Laptops	0	0	*800
2007		0	0	*550
2008		2	0	322

	Device Type	Ministers	Special Advisors	Civil Servants
2009		2	0	350

Notes:
Costs
Secure Remote Access Laptops
*Estimated costs by financial year:
2005-6 None Purchased
2006-7 £389,000
2007-8 £796,000
2008-9 None Purchased
Standalone Laptops
Information on the cost of standalone laptops is available from 2007 only.
2007-8 £9,095
2008-9 £16,955

Departmental Public Consultation

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid Opinion Leader Research in financial year 2007-08. [260972]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the Department paid Opinion Leader Research Ltd. £108,152.29 in financial year 2007-08.

I have asked chief executives of the Executive agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 11 May 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and (b) its agencies paid Opinion Leader Research in financial year 2007-08.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform made no payments to Opinion Leader Research in the financial year 2007-08.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 11 May 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 2 March 2009, UIN 260972, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House did not make any payments to Opinion Leader Research in the financial year 2007-08.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Ltd. since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [261062]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the Department has made no payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services to Deborah Mattinson and Opinion Leader Research Ltd. since 31 December 2007.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1128W, on the economic situation, what expenditure under what budgetary headings his Department incurred in relation to each of its Department's three summits on the economic situation held at 1 Victoria Street since January 2009. [268173]

Mr. McFadden: The costs of the three summits referred to in my answer to the hon. Member on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1128W, were as follows:

Regional Economic Council—5 November 2008: Total cost: £395.25 of which venue hire was £328.00 and hospitality was £67.25.

Credit Card Summit—26 November 2008: Total cost: £1,126.30 of which venue hire was £490.00 and hospitality was £636.30.

Regional Economic Council—5 January 2009: Total cost: £605.70 of which venue hire was £468.00 and hospitality was £137.70.

East Midlands Airport: Radio Frequencies

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the cost to East Midlands Airport of the introduction of administered incentive pricing for aeronautical radio spectrum; [272230]

(2) what estimate he has made of the individual cost to passengers using East Midlands Airport of administered incentive pricing for aeronautical radio spectrum if the full cost is passed on by airlines. [272231]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my right hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Electronic Equipment: Forgery

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the prevalence of counterfeit electronic components and *(b)* the extent of their inclusion in assemblies for military and civilian purposes; and what steps are being taken to inform users of the dangers of component failures. [273605]

Ian Pearson: The Department has made no such estimates, but we recognise that counterfeiting of electronic components is a problem in the UK, and we are helping the UK Electronics Alliance (UKEA) to co-ordinate work on ways to share best practice on prevention, detection and intelligence sharing.

Other organisations involved in this work include the MOD, HMRC, the UK Intellectual Property Office, Trading Standards, the Components Obsolescence Group, Intellect, and the Association of Franchised Distributors of Electronic Components (AFDEC).

Minimum Wage: Telephone Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consultation his Department undertook with the Public and Commercial Services Union before the decision was taken to outsource the national minimum wage helpline. [273117]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* Several meetings took place with trade union representatives about the Department's plans prior to a decision being

taken to outsource the new single enforcement helpline. These representatives included both local and national public and commercial services union officers.

The new helpline will provide a single point of contact for vulnerable workers and employers seeking information and advice about the national minimum wage, the agricultural minimum wage, working time regulation and the special regulations relating to employment agencies and gangmasters. Plans for the helpline have been discussed at meetings of the Fair Employment Enforcement Board which brings together enforcement agencies from across Government, as well as employer and employee representations.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which organisations bid for the national minimum wage helpline contract; and what the monetary value of the contract awarded to BSS for the national minimum wage helpline is. [273118]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The contract with BSS will last for three years, with a possibility of extension for a further three years if the service proves to be effective, and represents value for money. The Department regards the anticipated contract value and the names of the unsuccessful bidders as commercially confidential.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the business case for the decision to outsource the work of national minimum wage helpline. [273119]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The Department looked very carefully at options for direct Government delivery of the service before turning to an outsourcing solution.

The helpline provider was selected following a competitive tendering process which assessed bids against a number of factors including value for money, evidence of a high level of operator skills, a track record in delivering sensitive services on behalf of the public sector, and flexible IT systems and skills. I expect the successful tenderer to deliver a high quality service for vulnerable workers and for the different workplace enforcement bodies that stand behind the helpline.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what training has been provided to BSS staff who will be employed on the national minimum wage helpline contract. [273120]

Mr. McFadden: *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* BSS's helpline staff are receiving more than eight weeks' full-time training prior to commencement of the new helpline service. Much of the training has been delivered by the Government's workplace enforcement bodies on whose behalf the helpline will answer straightforward queries from callers, and refer on complex queries and complaints of abuses which require investigation.

Ministers: Members Interests

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice the Secretary of State received from *(a)* his Permanent Secretary and *(b)* the independent adviser on Ministers' interests, pursuant to paragraph 7.7 of the Ministerial Code, prior to establishing his blind trust. [272381]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* My right hon. Friend's blind trust was established prior to his becoming Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Mobile Phones: Contracts

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints Ofcom has received on the handling by each mobile telephone service provider of cancellations of mobile telephone services in each of the last five years. [264097]

Mr. McFadden: Office of Communications (Ofcom) have advised that the information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. While Ofcom does monitor the levels of complaints against service providers' customer services, this information is aggregated and does not go down to the level of detail requested.

Furthermore, Ofcom only publishes complaints data in an aggregated manner and does not release supplier-specific information. The Communications Act 2003 provides clear guidance for how Ofcom should release supplier-specific information. Ofcom must also weigh up the potential risk of civil liability, should it release information that is inaccurate or misleading.

Non-domestic Rates

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with the Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government on the implementation of measures to introduce automatic rate relief for small businesses. [271533]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply that my right hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government gave on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 141W.

Regional Development Agencies: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by each of the regional development agencies is in 2008-09. [258532]

Mr. McFadden: The table illustrates the estimated costs of empty property business rates for RDA properties recorded on the e-PIMS database.

RDAs are required to record operational properties on e-PIMS but do not have to record Regeneration properties where these are intended to be held by the Agency on a temporary basis.

The LDA is not required to use e-PIMS—it provides data to the Greater London Authority.

RDA	£
Advantage West Midlands	35,000
East of England Development Agency	109,000
East Midlands Development Agency	24,000
North West Development Agency (operational properties only)	48,000
One North East (operational properties only)	—
South East England Development Agency (all properties, including regeneration properties)	560,000
South West England Regional Development Agency	146,000
Yorkshire Forward (includes significant city/town centre premises, where the RDA is pursuing a vacant possession strategy in advance of redevelopment)	1.02 million

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding each regional development agency has given to each regional health Brussels office in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [269969]

Mr. McFadden: No RDA has provided funding to a regional health Brussels office.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding had been allocated to each regional cultural observatory from regional development agencies for 2009-10. [270125]

Mr. McFadden: No RDA has allocated funding to a regional cultural observatory in 2009-10.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals for enabling regional development agencies to delegate responsibility for funding decisions to local authorities. [272343]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's response to the consultation on the SNR recognised that much of the original policy intention could be met under existing legislation by encouraging closer working between RDAs and local authorities in planning how the regional strategy would be implemented. By taking a joint approach to planning investment in the region, it will be possible for local authorities to take on a large degree of responsibility for delivering agreed programmes and projects in their area. Revised guidance will be issued shortly to make this clear.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Local Housing Allowance

12. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of local housing allowance. [273496]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie) today.

New Claimants

13. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides for the newly unemployed. [273497]

16. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides through Jobcentre Plus to assist newly unemployed people. [273500]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are doing everything they can to help people get back into work as quickly as possible. Since last autumn, the Department has put in place a substantial package of support for the newly unemployed, including help with modern job search techniques for professionals and executives, as well as increasing funding for the Rapid Response Service by 400 per cent. and expanding Local Employment Partnerships, the Adviser Discretion Fund and Access to Work.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what further provision he plans to introduce to support newly unemployed people. [273505]

Mr. McNulty: We recognise the importance of providing customers with targeted support early in their claim.

This is why we introduced a substantial package of extra support for newly unemployed people, including help with latest jobsearch techniques for professionals, and the extension of local employment partnerships, the Adviser Discretionary Fund and Access to Work.

Jobcentre Plus is in the process of recruiting additional staff to ensure service levels are maintained through the current downturn.

Winter Fuel Allowance

14. **Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the criteria for eligibility for winter fuel allowance were last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [273498]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We keep the eligibility criteria for winter fuel payments under review.

Pensioner Assistance

15. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides to people who receive pension credit in relation to payment of council tax. [273499]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to ensuring that pensioners receive the support they are entitled to. We have already simplified the claims process so that pensioners can claim state pension, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit in one phone call and we continue to look at ways of making further improvements.

Jobcentre Plus

17. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much additional funding he plans to provide for Jobcentre Plus to meet demand for its services in 2009-10. [273501]

Mr. McNulty: The additional funding for Jobcentre Plus to meet the demand for its services in 2009-10 is expected to be around £700 million.

Flexible New Deal

18. **Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his plans are for the future operation of the flexible new deal; and if he will make a statement. [273502]

Mr. McNulty: Thanks to significant additional funds committed at the pre-Budget report and the Budget, the Department is on track to deliver flexible new deal in phase 1 areas from October 2009.

It is envisaged that jobseekers in phase 2 areas will be referred to flexible new deal from October 2010.

Incapacity Benefit Claimants

19. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to assist long-term incapacity benefit claimants into work. [273503]

20. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to assist long-term incapacity benefit claimants into work. [273504]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State earlier.

Jobseeker's Allowance

22. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the population in the West Midlands is in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [273506]

Mr. McNulty: In March 2009 the proportion of the working-age population in the West Midlands claiming jobseeker's allowance was 5.3 per cent.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants undertaking mandatory Jobcentre Plus training courses at six months found sustainable jobs of 26 or more weeks duration on completion of their courses in the latest period for which figures are available. [269088]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The information requested is not collated centrally.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 18 and 24 years claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the 18 to 24 years age group in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each of the Scottish regions and *(c)* North East Fife constituency claimed the allowance in each year. [270856]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is shown in the following table.

Population estimates for parliamentary constituencies in Scotland are published by the General Register Office for Scotland. The age breakdown provided is for five-year age groups. No estimate is available for the age group 18-24, therefore the proportions requested cannot be calculated.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 18-24 in UK, Scotland by local authority area, and North East Fife parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years

Area	*March 2005*	*% of pop.*	*March 2006*	*% of pop.*	*March 2007*	*% of pop.*	*March 2008*	*% of pop.*	*March 2009*	*% of pop.*
United Kingdom	254,665	4.6	297,440	5.3	289,365	5.0	259,610	4.5	460,420	8.0
Scotland	25,915	5.6	27,535	5.8	25,175	5.2	22,250	4.6	37,735	7.9
Aberdeen City	705	3.1	665	2.8	530	2.2	465	1.9	715	3.0
Aberdeenshire	585	3.6	445	2.7	375	2.2	335	1.9	605	3.5
Angus	580	7.6	530	6.9	525	6.7	370	4.8	670	8.6
Argyll and Bute	345	5.6	365	5.6	355	5.3	320	4.7	515	7.6
Clackmannanshire	335	8.6	350	8.9	325	7.9	310	7.5	550	13.3
Dumfries and Galloway	640	6.8	745	7.7	695	6.9	660	6.5	1,040	10.3
Dundee City	1,100	6.2	1,165	6.6	1,035	5.9	930	5.3	1,420	8.1
East Ayrshire	955	9.9	955	9.7	865	8.5	775	7.6	1,315	13.0
East Dunbartonshire	280	3.2	315	3.6	305	3.4	245	2.8	485	5.5
East Lothian	270	4.5	285	4.5	265	4.0	220	3.3	520	7.8
East Renfrewshire	215	3.0	215	3.0	200	2.7	180	2.4	335	4.5
Edinburgh, City of	1,670	2.9	1,875	3.2	1,705	2.9	1,420	2.4	2,525	4.3
Eilean Siar	90	5.9	85	5.5	70	4.4	65	4.0	115	7.2
Falkirk	850	7.1	870	7.3	785	6.5	690	5.7	1,275	10.6
Fife	2,280	7.0	2,415	7.2	2,165	6.3	1,940	5.6	3,085	9.0

Jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 18-24 in UK, Scotland by local authority area, and North East Fife parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years

Area	March 2005	% of pop.	March 2006	% of pop.	March 2007	% of pop.	March 2008	% of pop.	March 2009	% of pop.
Glasgow City	4,310	6.1	4,650	6.5	4,370	6.1	3,895	5.5	6,035	8.5
Highland	835	5.9	820	5.7	715	4.8	605	4.1	1,130	7.6
Inverclyde	670	9.2	670	9.1	660	8.9	600	8.1	795	10.7
Midlothian	300	4.9	410	6.3	305	4.6	285	4.3	555	8.4
Moray	305	4.7	400	6.2	340	5.1	330	4.9	500	7.5
North Ayrshire	1,065	9.6	1,235	11.0	1,055	9.2	1,050	9.2	1,490	13.0
North Lanarkshire	1,975	6.7	2,035	6.9	1,880	6.4	1,695	5.7	3,180	10.7
Orkney Islands	45	3.8	50	4.0	50	3.9	20	1.5	55	4.3
Perth and Kinross	395	4.2	440	4.1	445	3.8	280	2.4	565	4.8
Renfrewshire	890	6.0	930	6.3	920	6.1	840	5.6	1,355	9.0
Scottish Borders	310	4.6	365	5.2	330	4.5	300	4.1	630	8.7
Shetland Islands	60	4.1	70	4.9	40	2.7	35	2.4	40	2.7
South Ayrshire	600	7.1	680	7.9	540	6.1	485	5.5	865	9.8
South Lanarkshire	1,400	5.3	1,530	5.8	1,405	5.2	1,240	4.6	2,405	9.0
Stirling	335	3.9	340	3.6	310	3.2	260	2.7	565	5.9
West Dunbartonshire	765	8.7	820	9.2	760	8.6	625	7.0	1,010	11.4
West Lothian	750	5.6	815	6.0	845	6.0	785	5.5	1,390	9.8
North East Fife parliamentary constituency	250	n/a	240	n/a	235	n/a	205	n/a	330	n/a

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
3. Figures include clerically held cases.
4. Claimant count data are published at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:
100 per cent. count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems, and Population Estimates Unit, ONS.

Asbestos

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research the Government have funded into the consequences of long-term exposure to asbestos. [272572]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) maintains a longstanding and continuing programme of research into the health effects of asbestos exposure.

Since 1968 the HSE has maintained the Great Britain Mesothelioma and Asbestosis Registers which document annual deaths from these conditions giving vital data for research.

Since the early 1970s HSE has maintained a long term research study of more specific groups of workers in the British asbestos manufacturing industry, now including the current asbestos removals industry, to monitor their long term health status, in particular, their cancer and mortality rates, and to evaluate the effectiveness of legislation protecting their health.

Most recently the HSE (with Cancer Research UK) commissioned Professor Julian Peto of the Institute of Cancer Research to measure the lung asbestos content in individuals with the asbestos-related cancer, mesothelioma, and those with and without it, including young men only potentially exposed more recently, to better assess the level of past exposure associated with disease and predict the future impact of current exposures. This follows HSE-funded research by Professor Peto on mesothelioma risk in specific occupations and from other potential sources of exposure.

The programme enables the HSE to document and predict overall trends in the occurrence of key asbestos related diseases; identify changing patterns of occupational risk; monitor the long term health of those working in occupations covered by legislation on asbestos exposure at work; collate scientific information to improve knowledge about risk from different types of asbestos and at different exposures; and improve, and evaluate preventive measures.

Further details of the HSE's research programme are available from the HSE website.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated cost overrun is for each IT project being undertaken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies which is subject to a cost overrun. [270221]

Jonathan Shaw: Although the Department does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to, or new, IT to a greater or lesser extent. The following table includes:

the projects and programmes currently on the Department's Portfolio where the IT element of the project or programme results in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business, and for which there is an anticipated cost overrun;

the investment costs of the project or programme only. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the project are not included as in the vast majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial benefits they generate. The costs reported relate to the total project, not only the IT element, based on the full business case.

Table 1: Projects with cost overruns in current DWP IT Portfolio

£ million

Project	Lead - Department or Agency	Planned costs (i)	Estimated cost on completion (ii)	Cost overrun (iii)
Central Payments System	Department	140	179	39
Customer Information System	Pension, Disability and Carers Service	40	86	46
Document Repository Service	Pension, Disability and Carers Service	12	13	1

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* benefits and *(b)* other concessions are available to those eligible for the income-related employment support allowance; if he will make it his policy to adjust the payment of contributory employment support allowance to allow eligibility for income-related employment support allowance; and if he will make a statement. [262548]

Mr. McNulty: People on income-related employment and support allowance are automatically passported to a range of support, including the maximum levels of housing benefit and council tax benefit, free prescriptions and dental care. In addition they are eligible for a wide range of help from the Social Fund.

Customers in receipt of contributory Employment and Support Allowance only are not automatically entitled to passported benefits, but are able to apply separately, under low income schemes, for most benefits that are passported.

We will continue to keep the policy under review.

Employment and Support Allowance: Telephone Services

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department decided to use an 0845 telephone number for queries from applicants for employment and support allowance; what alternatives there are to the service; and if he will make a statement. [265969]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Inquiries about employment and support allowance use the same modem telephony infrastructure as do inquiries to other DWP services. This ensures that we can satisfy our customers' needs in an effective and efficient way.

DWP's executive team agreed last year that initial calls to inquire about and claim benefit should be free, so we should use 0800 numbers to ensure that the most important—and longest—calls are free to the majority of our customers. Subsequent calls for other reasons, such as offering further information or progress on the claim, take less time to resolve and should be charged at a standard rate for the majority of customers, so we should use 0845 numbers.

The telephony market is constantly changing but it would be unreasonable to expect customers to continually keep up with alterations to our telephone numbering in order to allow us to match the latest pricing by different service operators. Costs of calling 0845 numbers remain lower than many alternatives, but we keep the market under review. Using BT landlines to call 0845 numbers is usually the lowest cost option. BT account for two-thirds of landline provision and recent research shows that over 80 per cent. of our customers contact us using landlines. Therefore, we concluded that 0845 numbers offered the best solution for the majority of our customers. The Department receives no revenue from use of any of our numbers, including 0845.

Alternatives to the service are for the customer to use the free phones provided in jobcentres to make inquiries. In the event the jobcentre does not have a free phone available, local arrangements are in place to provide the customer with the opportunity to use a standard Jobcentre Plus phone.

Where a customer is unable to use a landline and asks for us to call them back we will always do so.

Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance Jobcentre Plus has given to personal advisers on identifying employers eligible for payments under the employers' golden hello scheme announced by his Department on 12 January 2009; and if he will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [269013]

Mr. McNulty: All employers are eligible to claim the recruitment subsidy element of the six-month offer, announced on 12 January, as long as they agree to the terms and conditions for receiving the payment. A copy of these terms and conditions has been placed in the Library

Employment Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to assist skilled long-term unemployed persons to gain access to re-training and new employment opportunities. [270925]

Mr. McNulty: The Budget has made an additional £2.8 billion available to DWP, on top of the £1.3 billion funding announced in the pre-Budget report, which will ensure that over the next two years we can continue to expand our support to jobseekers through the economic downturn. Among other initiatives, this extra funding will enable us to guarantee a job or other meaningful activity to young people and certain disadvantaged groups from the 12-month point of their claim.

The Government are investing £0.5 billion over two years to support people through an expanded range of work and training options to provide jobs through recruitment subsidies, support to start a business, work-related training and volunteering opportunities. This extra help was introduced on 6 April and is available to all those who have been out of work and claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more.

Jobseeker's allowance customers can train for up to 16 hours per week alongside active job search. Jobseekers may also undertake up to two weeks of full-time training in any 12-month period, without jeopardising their benefit entitlements. Additionally, from 6 April, anyone who has been unemployed and claiming benefits for more than six months can study full time for up to eight weeks on a job-related training course approved by an employment adviser.

The introduction of the flexible new deal in phase 1 areas from October will establish a new, unified approach for longer-term jobseekers, whatever their age, skills or barriers to work. The flexible new deal will deliver work-focused support, tailored to each individual's needs and local labour market requirements.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to adult *(a)* non-UK EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU nationals in the latest year for which figures are available. [253988]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The available information is in the following table.

National insurance number registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, by quarter of registration and EU/non-EU status

Thousand

	EU nationals	*Non-EU nationals*
October 2007 to December 2007	108.29	76.67
January 2008 to March 2008	110.83	80.93
April 2008 to June 2008	100.68	74.65
July 2008 to September 2008	101.93	65.26

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and displayed in thousands.
2. There are a small number of registrations where citizens' nationalities are unknown, these are not included.
3. Registration date is derived from the date at which a national insurance number is entered on the National Insurance Recording System
4. When presenting the EU time series, countries which joined the EU during time series have been included in the EU for the whole of the time series, to facilitate comparisons over time.
5. Bulgaria and Romania are listed as EU accession states for the entire time series. The EU total includes the accession states.
6. The EU time series excludes national insurance numbers registered to UK nationals.

Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System

Funeral Payments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides for payments for the funeral expenses for the late husband of a woman aged under 30 years old in full-time education with no household income; and if he will make a statement. [271675]

Kitty Ussher: In order to be eligible to receive a funeral payment from the social fund in these circumstances, the woman must have an award of one of the qualifying benefits or tax credits in respect of the date of claim. The qualifying benefits and tax credits are:

state pension credit;

income support;

income based jobseeker's allowance;

income related employment and support allowance;

housing benefit;

council tax benefit;

working tax credit that includes a disability or severe disability element;

child tax credit at a rate higher than the family element.

A funeral payment can be claimed from the date of death up until three months after the funeral.

In addition, a surviving spouse or civil partner in the circumstances described may be entitled to claim one or more of the following benefits: bereavement payment–a lump sum payment of £2,000 payable immediately to help with costs arising on bereavement; widowed parent's allowance—a weekly benefit payable to widowed parents and surviving civil partners with responsibility for dependant child or children.

Entitlement conditions for these bereavement benefits are based on the national insurance record of the late spouse or deceased civil partner. Bereavement benefits are payable to both men and women who satisfy the qualifying conditions.

Incapacity Benefit: Arthritis

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants had a recorded diagnosis which was or included rheumatoid arthritis in each of the last five years; and how much was paid in such benefits to such claimants in each of these years. [270500]

Jonathan Shaw: Rheumatoid arthritis does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. Until October 2008 the medical assessment of incapacity for work was the personal capability assessment. This assesses the effects of a person's condition on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities relevant to work.

The information requested is in the following table.

Estimated incapacity benefits expenditure on claimants whose diagnosis includes rheumatoid arthritis (nominal terms)

	£ million
2003-04	128
2004-05	126
2005-06	125
2006-07	123
2007-08	122

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefits includes incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance payable to working-aged adults.
2. Figures also include incapacity related income support expenditure for incapacity benefit claimants. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.
3. Estimates are based on information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and published DWP benefit expenditure tables.
4. DWP benefit expenditure tables can be accessed at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Estimated incapacity benefits caseloads of claimants whose diagnosis includes rheumatoid arthritis (nominal terms)

As at August each year	*All*
2004	29,010
2005	28,040
2006	27,100
2007	25,780
2008	24,710

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
3. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to benefit.

Source:
DWP Longitudinal Study

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr J. Harris. [273754]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend's letter of 19 March 2009 in respect of Mr. J. Harris was passed to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on 27 March 2009 as it concerned an area for which ministerial colleagues in that Department have responsibility. I apologise to my right hon. Friend for failing to keep him informed of this.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Northavon of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1038-39W, on pensioners: social security benefits, what estimate he has made of the number of people who would receive more in benefits payments if tariff income rules were abolished and upper capital limits were retained. [265946]

Ms Rosie Winterton: With the abolition of tariff income rules for pension credit and housing benefit and council tax benefit (for those who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) while keeping the current upper capital limits in housing benefit and council tax benefit, approximately 710,000 pensioner households would receive higher income-related benefits at a cost of approximately £560 million (2009-10 prices) per year.

The tariff income rules are not intended to represent a rate of return that could be obtained from investing an individual's capital. They are a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution that customers with capital in excess of £6,000 are expected to make to their normal living costs.

The Government believe it is right that people with capital should contribute towards their own living costs, and right that support is targeted on those that need it most. That is why the current rules ignore the first £6,000 of savings (£10,000 for those in care homes) and why those with savings above this are expected to contribute a small amount to their weekly expenses.

In the 2009 Budget, the Chancellor announced that the capital threshold for pension credit (and housing benefit and council tax benefit for those who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) will be increased from £6,000 to £10,000, bringing it into line with the threshold for those living permanently in care homes. This change will take effect from November 2009 and will allow these customers to retain up to £10,000 of capital before it affects their benefit. This change represents a generous increase in the capital thresholds for pension credit recipients and a significant simplification to the benefit. Half a million pensioners stand to gain from this change, with an average weekly gain across all benefits of £4.

With these new capital rules, around 480,000 pensioner households would receive higher income-related benefits at a cost of approximately £440 million (2009-10 prices) per year from the abolition of tariff income rules referred to in the question.

Note:

These estimates have been calculated using the Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). Estimates are subject to sampling and modelling uncertainty.

Redundancy: Woolworths

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of staff made redundant by Woolworth *(a)* accessed services and *(b)* have found new work through the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service. [266123]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking, how many and what proportion of staff made redundant by Woolworth (a) accessed services and (b) found new work through the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Staff in almost all of Woolworths' 800 or so stores were offered support through the Rapid Response Service (RRS) before store closure. We do not record specific numbers of employees who are given advice and support through RRS.

We issued over 8,000 packs to enable people to make claims for benefit, and in many instances provided on-site advice on benefits. Our advice and support on jobsearch has also been available to Woolworths' employees, not just in the run up to store closure but afterwards.

We do not attempt systematically to record job outcomes achieved for former employees of particular employers: to do so would be prohibitively expensive. Comprehensive information on the numbers of people made redundant from Woolworths who have found work through Jobcentre Plus is therefore unavailable. We have however noted many examples, throughout Britain of former Woolworths employees finding new jobs with Jobcentre Plus's help.

Social Security Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value each type of

benefit payments made in each year since 1997 was (i) overpaid and (ii) underpaid due to (A) customer error, (B) official error, (C) fraud and (D) other reasons. [266184]

Mr. McNulty: The Department's strategy for measuring fraud and error focuses on providing estimates of the Monetary Value of Fraud and Error and does not provide estimates of the number of payments over or underpaid over a particular time period so this is not available. Estimates of the value and the percentage of expenditure for benefits that have been measured since 1997 have been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* received a caution and *(b)* were convicted in respect of an offence of benefit fraud in each quarter of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many of those convicted were dealt with by way of (i) a discharge, (ii) a fine, (iii) a community sentence, (iv) a suspended sentence, (v) a custodial sentence, (vi) a custodial sentence of more than six months and (vii) a custodial sentence of more than 12 months. [244732]

Mr. McNulty: Information broken down by the length of the custodial sentence is not available.

The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the following table.

	Cautions	*Convictions*	*Discharges*	*Fines*	*Community service*	*Suspended sentence*	*Custodial sentence*
2003-04							
Q1	2,209	2,393	742	559	677	26	[1]—
Q2	2,094	2,270	744	498	651	23	[1]—
Q3	1,981	2,142	697	442	595	35	[1]—
Q4	1,847	2,222	697	456	649	27	[1]—
Total	8,131	9,027	2,880	1,955	2,572	111	590
2004-05							
Q1	2,114	2,376	649	450	659	42	146
Q2	2,472	2,219	648	426	619	35	181
Q3	2,353	2,175	686	437	620	41	150
Q4	3,058	2,449	669	441	593	30	124
Total	9,997	9,219	2,652	1,754	2,491	148	601
2005-06							
Q1	3,025	2,063	619	399	704	55	263
Q2	2,488	2,126	629	333	718	59	263
Q3	2,607	2,349	533	269	687	69	236
Q4	2,423	2,202	660	347	818	92	157
Total	10,543	8,740	2,441	1,348	2,927	275	919
2006-07							
Q1	3,282	1,846	511	259	663	99	223
Q2	3,221	1,770	424	196	689	156	146
Q3	2,970	1,412	343	148	476	130	138
Q4	2,503	1,833	456	225	587	145	109
Total	11,976	6,861	1,734	828	2,415	530	616
2007-08							
Q1	3,853	1,772	528	236	656	193	97
Q2	3,914	2,200	557	238	742	257	105
Q3	3,454	1,606	470	230	642	202	107
Q4	1,600	2,167	652	257	740	309	213
Total	12,821	7,745	2,207	961	2,780	961	522

[1] Quarterly breakdown not available

Sources:

1. Conviction data for England and Wales from DWP/DH Legal Group.
2. Conviction data for Scotland from FIBS & FRAIMS.
3. Cautions data from FIBS & FRAIMS.
4. Discharges, Fines, Community Service, Suspended Sentence and Custodial Sentence 2003-04 to 2006-07 data from FIBS & FRAIMS.
5. 2007-08 Discharges, Fines, Community Service, Suspended Sentence and Custodial Sentence data from DWP/DH Legal Group.

The available information for housing benefit is provided in the following table.

	Fraud investigations	Cautions	Admin penalties	Prosecutions	Guilty verdicts
2003-04					
Q1	42,184	1,142	752	863	710
Q2	39,451	1,197	870	1,161	902
Q3	36,459	1,326	1,002	1,252	1,055
Q4	38,019	1,444	962	1,325	1,080
2004-05					
Q1	40,369	1,216	897	1,159	1,026
Q2	39,877	1,652	1,019	1,318	1,238
Q3	38,548	1,711	1,184	1,320	1,165
Q4	44,415	2,070	1,396	1,747	1,259
2005-06					
Q1	45,704	1,925	1,264	1,595	1,443
Q2	45,641	2,327	1,662	1,741	1,449
Q3	48,423	2,087	1,502	1,799	1,542
Q4	54,294	3,369	1,771	2,582	1,800
2006-07					
Q1	39,893	2,075	1,268	1,389	1,454
Q2	42,527	2,582	1,647	1,504	1,472
Q3	41,958	2,637	1,750	1,521	1,373
Q4	48,051	3,368	2,077	1,609	1,561
2007-08					
Q1	43,473	2,956	2,065	1,483	1,563
Q2	46,606	3,627	2,392	1,767	1,673
Q3	38,417	3,029	2,029	1,554	1,575
Q4	32,278	2,957	1,930	1,807	1,682

Source:
Housing Benefit Operational Database (HOBOD) based on the local authority administrative return called "Stats 12".

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* received a caution and *(b)* were convicted in respect of a benefit fraud offence in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available; and how many of those convicted received a (i) discharge, (ii) fine, (iii) community sentence, (iv) suspended sentence and (v) custodial sentence. [253989]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the following table:

	Cautions	Convictions	Discharge	Fines	Community service	Suspended sentence	Custodial sentence
2006-07							
Q1	3,282	1,846	511	259	663	99	223
Q2	3,221	1,770	424	196	689	156	146
Q3	2,970	1,412	343	148	476	130	138
Q4	2,503	1,833	456	225	587	145	109
Total	11,976	6,861	1,734	828	2,415	530	616
2007-08							
Q1	3,853	1,772	528	236	656	193	97
Q2	3,914	2,200	557	238	742	257	105
Q3	3,454	1,606	470	230	642	202	107
Q4	1,600	2,167	652	257	740	309	213

	Cautions	Convictions	Discharges	Fines	Community service	Suspended sentence	Custodial sentence
Total	12,821	7,745	2,207	961	2,780	961	522

Notes:
Discharges, fines, community service, suspended sentence and custodial sentence 2006-07 data from FIBS and FRAIMS.
2007-08 discharges, fines, community service, suspended sentence and custodial sentence data from DWP/DH Legal Group.
Sources:
1. Conviction data for England and Wales from DWP/DH Legal Group.
2. Conviction data for Scotland from FIBS and FRAIMS.
3. Cautions data from FIBS and FRAIMS.

The available information for housing benefit is provided in the following table:

	Fraud investigations	Cautions	Admin penalties	Prosecutions	Guilty verdicts
2006-07					
Q1	39,893	2,075	1,268	1,389	1,404
Q2	42,527	2,582	1,647	1,504	1,472
Q3	41,958	2,637	1,750	1,521	1,363
Q4	48,051	3,368	2,077	1,609	1,561
2007-08					
Q1	43,473	2,956	2,065	1,683	1,563
Q2	46,606	3,627	2,392	1,787	1,673
Q3	38,417	3,029	2,029	1,554	1,575
Q4	32,278	2,957	1,930	1,807	1,682

Source:
Housing benefit operational database (HOBOD) based on the local authority administrative return called 'Stats 124'.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* received a caution and *(b)* were convicted in respect of an offence of benefit fraud in each quarter of the last year for which figures are available; and how many of those convicted were dealt with by way of (i) a discharge, (ii) a fine, (iii) a community sentence, (iv) a suspended sentence and (v) a custodial sentence. [259127]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the following table:

	Cautions	Convictions	Discharges	Fines	Community service	Suspended sentence	Custodial sentence
2007-08							
Q1	3,853	1,772	528	296	656	193	97
Q2	3,914	2,200	557	238	742	257	105
Q3	3,454	1,606	470	230	642	202	107
Q4	1,600	2,167	652	257	740	309	213
Total	12,821	7,745	2,207	961	2,780	961	522

Note:
2007-08 discharges, fines, community service, suspended sentence and custodial sentence data from DWP/DH Legal Group.
Sources:
1. Conviction data for England and Wales from DWP/DH Legal Group.
2. Conviction data for Scotland from FIBS and FRAIMS.
3. Cautions data from FIBS and FRAIMS.

The available information for housing benefit is provided in the following table:

	Fraud investigations	Cautions	Admin penalties	Prosecutions	Guilty verdicts
2007-08					
Q1	43,473	2,956	2,065	1,683	1,563
Q2	46,606	3,627	2,392	1,787	1,673
Q3	38,417	3,029	2,029	1,554	1,575
Q4	32,278	2,957	1,930	1,807	1,682

Source:
Housing benefit operational database (HOBOD) based on the local authority administrative return called 'Stats 124'.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were investigated for benefit fraud in each of the last three years; how many were subsequently *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* prosecuted and convicted; and how many of those convicted in each such year received (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a community sentence and (iii) a discharge. [260986]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the following table.

	Total number of investigation	*Cautions*	*Number of prosecuted*	*Convictions*	*Custodial sentence*	*Community sentence*	*Discharges*
2005-06	408,062	10,543	10,262	8,740	919	2,927	2,441
2006-07	128,443	11,976	8,964	6,861	616	2,415	1,734
2007-08	86,909	12,821	10,274	7,745	522	2,780	2,207

Notes:
1. In April 2006 Jobcentre Plus reorganised its counter fraud resources into two new services. The Fraud Investigation Service was established, focussing on high value cases with a view to securing criminal sanctions including prosecutions. At the same time a customer compliance approach was deployed to deal with less serious cases more speedily with an emphasis on benefit correction, recovery of overpayments and warning customers on their future conduct.
2. The figures for 2006-07 reflect this with the number of investigations shown relating to criminal investigations only from this point. The number of customer compliance activities completed in 2006-07 and 2007-08 were 290,476 and 371,592 respectively.

Sources:
Prosecution and Conviction data for England and Wales from DWP/DH Legal Group
Prosecution and Conviction data for Scotland from FIBS and FRAIMS
Investigations, Cautions, Discharges, Community Service and Custodial Sentence data:
2005-07 from FIBS and FRAIMS
Discharges, Community Service and Custodial Sentence data for 2007-08 from DWP/DH Legal Group.

The available information for housing benefit is provided in the following table

	Fraud investigations	*Cautions*	*Admin penalties*	*Prosecutions*	*Guilty verdicts*
2005-06	194,062	9,708	6,199	6,041	6,234
2006-07	172,429	10,662	6,742	6,023	5,860
2007-08	160,774	12,569	8,416	6,611	6,493

Source:
Housing Benefit Operational Database (HOBOD) based on the local authority administrative return called 'Stats 124'

State Retirement Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of adults are in receipt of a state retirement pension. [272474]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We estimate that 23 per cent. of all adults in Great Britain in 2008 are in receipt of a state pension.

Of those who are at state pension age or above, 95 per cent. are estimated to be in receipt of a state pension.

Notes:
Definitions: an adult is someone aged 18 or over.

Sources:
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, May 2008 and ONS population projections.

Unemployed: Social Security Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 92 of the Pre-Budget Report 2008, to what areas the £1.3 billion funding to deliver support for the unemployed has been allocated; and if he will make a statement. [260899]

Mr. McNulty: The pre-Budget report allocated an additional £1.3 billion over CSR07 to help to deliver effective support to unemployed people. This provides additional money to Jobcentre Plus, contracted employment providers and local authorities.

This money is providing 6,000 additional staff in Jobcentre Plus in 2009-10, and is also being used to implement the additional measures that were announced in the pre-Budget report, the expansion of Local Employer Partnerships and the further expansion of Jobcentre Plus' Rapid Response Service, and to provide a new package of support aimed at jobseekers that have recently become unemployed and have no recent experience of current job search channels.

Unemployment Benefits

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to use the broad definition of work-related activity contained in the Gregg review in regulations to be made under the Welfare Reform Bill if enacted. [260766]

Mr. McNulty: We are not planning to define the term 'work-related activity' in regulations under the Welfare Reform Bill. We are keen to ensure that the term work-related activity can be interpreted flexibly so it can be tailored to an individual's needs. This will allow the customer in conjunction with their personal adviser to agree activities that are tailored to their individual circumstances and will best help them move closer to work. As Professor Gregg suggested, work-related activity could include training, skills and job-related support as well as wider measures such as volunteering, undertaking parenting programmes or visiting a debt adviser.

We will be using this wide concept of work-related activity as a basis for producing guidance for personal advisers to help them decide which activities will best assist their customers to move closer to the labour market. We will continue to involve stakeholders in the design of the Progression to Work Pathfinders.

Vacancies

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of vacancies of positions offering 30 hours or more employment a week notified to jobcentres in each of the last 12 months. [269469]

Mr. McNulty: Information is not held on the number of vacancies offering 30 hours or more a week, notified to Jobcentre Plus offices in the last 12 months.

Information is available on the number of vacancies offering 16 hours or more a week, notified to Jobcentre Plus offices in the last 12 months and is shown in the following table.

Vacancies, 16 hours or more a week, in Great Britain, notified to Jobcentre Plus offices, April 2008 to March 2009

	Notified vacancies
April 2008	269,080
May 2008	261,390
June 2008	315,535
July 2008	239,930
August 2008	307,295
September 2008	264,671
October 2008	265,085
November 2008	260,955
December 2008	170,535
January 2009	85,486
February 2009	219,302
March 2009	170,403

Notes:
1. Data are unrounded.
2. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such the figures represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
3. These figures are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Wedgwood: Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had on the pensions of the Waterford Wedgwood workers. [272470]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been no specific discussions relating to Waterford Wedgwood workers pensions.

The Pension Protection Fund has received formal notifications from insolvency practitioners in respect of various companies in the Waterford Wedgwood group. It is currently working with the Trustees to determine if the associated pension schemes qualify for entry into a PPF assessment period.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Protection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in the family legal aid budget on the Government's ability to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. [271458]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The consultation, 'Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010', was published by my Department and the Legal Services Commission on 17 December 2008. The consultation paper was accompanied by a detailed impact assessment which considered the impact of the changes on lawyers and the public.

The consultation proposed that in future the provision of guardians ad litem for children separately represented in family proceedings would be solely the responsibility of the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS), and could no longer be considered a legal aid disbursement. This is because these are not legal expenses. The proposal was put forward following discussions with CAFCASS, who confirmed that subject to suitable resources being available they agreed with the point in principle. The consultation responses are now being analysed since the close of the consultation on 3 April. We will have further discussions with the Legal Services Commission, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and CAFCASS, in the light of the evaluation, to agree a response to the consultation.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in post-16 education in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* England are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [272750]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the *(a)* level of take up and *(b)* cost of the education maintenance allowance in each of the next five years. [272970]

Jim Knight: We estimate that nearly half of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds in full-time education will take up EMA, and all of those on the Entry to Employment programme.

The budget allocations for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the current comprehensive spending review (CSR) period are: 2009/10 £529 million and 2010/11 £529 million. Forecasts of expenditure and take-up beyond the current CSR period are not currently available.

Budget 2009 provided funding for an additional 54,500 learners over and above the numbers to be funded from the CSR budget, a high proportion of these are expected to be eligible for EMA. These learners will be funded in the academic years 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people are in receipt of education maintenance allowance; and what estimate he has made of the expenditure incurred by his Department on the provision of such allowances in the last 12 months. [273095]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualifications have been considered for approval by the Joint Advisory Council for Qualifications in each month for which data are available; how many of these qualifications were *(a)* rejected and *(b)* accepted; and if he will make a statement. [272754]

Jim Knight: The Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval (JACQA) has met twice: on 3 December 2008 and 19 March 2009.

Two newly-accredited "standalone" qualifications were considered at the December meeting. The committee recommended that both should be approved as eligible for public funding, on the basis that they satisfied the Section 96 criteria.

44 standalone qualifications were reviewed at the second meeting of JACQA in March. Recommendations were made in favour of funding nine qualifications, and against approval in the case of one qualification, which the committee did not feel had satisfied the Section 96 criteria. 34 qualifications were referred back to awarding organisations where there was insufficient evidence to judge if the criteria had been met.

The Secretary of State has accepted all of JACQA's recommendations to date.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils achieved grade C or higher in GCSE physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2008; [274318]

(2) how many pupils achieved grade C or higher in GCSE English Literature, English and mathematics in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2008; [274319]

(3) how many pupils achieved six or more GCSEs including grade C or higher in mathematics, English, English Literature, double award science or all three separate sciences and history in 2008. [274320]

Jim Knight: The answers to these questions are given in the following table:

Question	*1997*[1]	*2003*[1]	*2008*[1]
274318			
Number of pupils attaining A*-C in four or more GCSEs including physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics	26,594	31,670	53,625
274319			
Number of pupils attaining A*-C in three or more GCSEs including English, English literature and mathematics	196,263	248,632	276,681
274320			
Number of pupils attaining A*-C in six or more GCSEs including English, English literature, mathematics, history and either physics, chemistry and biology or double award science	—	—	24,597

[1] Prior to 2005, figures are based on 15-year-old pupils whereas in subsequent years figures are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

Source:
The Achievement and Attainment Tables' database

Havering Sixth Form College

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated to Havering Sixth Form College for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [272899]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) hold the information you have requested. Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Complaints

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms exist for parents to complain about the standard of teaching in a school; and if he will make a statement. [273398]

Jim Knight: Since 1 September 2003, governing bodies of all maintained schools and maintained nursery schools in England have been required, under section 29 of the Education Act 2002, to have in place a procedure to deal with complaints relating to the school and any community facilities or services that the school provides. The law also requires the procedure to be publicised. Parents may also approach Ofsted, which has powers to investigate and if necessary conduct an inspection of the school. In addition, parents' views are sought and considered as part of all school inspections.

Schools: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of computers in primary schools in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London. [273201]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Schools: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools have been taken into special measures more than once since 1997. [269877]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert will be replying and a copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 24 April 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Between 1 September 1997 and 31 December 2008, 1,940 maintained schools were placed in special measures once, and 67 schools were placed in special measures more than once, including one school that had been placed in special measures three times. This school has now closed.

Of the 67 schools that required special measures a second time, five remained in special measures at their re-inspection without ever being removed from this category. They are included at the foot of the list. Data for the spring term 2009 have not yet been published and are not included in these figures.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Schools placed in special measures more than once between 1 September 1997 and 31 December 2008

URN	School	LA	Still open/closed
130340	Monteagle Primary School	Barking and Dagenham	Open
103309	Primrose Hill Community School	Birmingham	Open
101526	Chalkhill Primary School	Brent	Open
132008	Burwood School	Bromley	Open
110492	Quarrendon School	Buckinghamshire	Open
107532	Mount Pellon Junior and Infant School	Calderdale	Open
110857	St. Andrew's CofE Community VA Junior School	Cambridgeshire	Closed
109747	Oak Bank School	Central Bedfordshire	Open
109139	Badocks Wood Primary School	City of Bristol	Open
112390	The Morton School	Cumbria	Closed
112558	Langley MILL Junior School	Derbyshire	Open
112937	Deincourt Community School	Derbyshire	Open
113373	Bridgerule Church of England Primary School	Devon	Open
106781	North Doncaster Technology College	Doncaster	Open
115604	Finlay Community School	Gloucestershire	Closed
115817	Cam House School	Gloucestershire	Open
100240	Selright School	Hackney	Open
116233	Park Primary School	Hampshire	Open
115995	Shepherds Spring Junior School	Hampshire	Closed
130325	Waite End Primary School	Hampshire	Open
115838	The Bridge Education Centre	Hampshire	Open
102449	Abbotsfield School	Hillingdon	Open
102557	Syon Park School	Hounslow	Closed
118259	Northcourt Primary School	Kent	Closed
118726	St. Barnabas CofE VA Primary School	Kent	Open
118925	Montgomery School	Kent	Closed
107759	Fartown High School	Kirklees	Open
119998	Queensmead Junior School	Leicester City	Closed
120887	Beaumont Lodge Primary School	Leicester City	Open
120667	Hartsholme Primary School	Lincolnshire	Open
104595	Childwall Valley Primary School	Liverpool	Closed
109425	Orchard Centre	Luton	Open
105548	Saviour CofE Primary School	Manchester	Open
102669	St. Teresas Catholic Primary School	Merton	Open
110532	The Radcliffe School	Milton Keynes	Open
108520	Gosforth Junior High School	Newcastle Upon Tyne	Open
120806	Fairstead Community Primary School	Norfolk	Open
121211	Costessey High School	Norfolk	Open
117953	Strand Junior School	North East Lincolnshire	Closed
122154	The Orchard School	Northamptonshire	Closed
121928	Sunnyside Primary School	Northamptonshire	Open
122325	West Sleekburn Middle School	Northumberland	Open
122438	St. Ann's Well Junior School	Nottingham City	Closed
123003	Thameside Primary School	Oxfordshire	Open
109777	Battle Primary School	Reading	Open
106011	New Park High School	Salford	Open
103914	Burnt Tree Primary School	Sandwell	Open
110077	Langleywood School	Slough	Closed
100797	John Donne Primary School	Southwark	Open

Schools placed in special measures more than once between 1 September 1997 and 31 December 2008

URN	School	LA	Still open/closed
100806	Peckham Rye Primary School	Southwark	Closed
124854	Kirkley Middle School	Suffolk	Open
124976	St. Francis, Westborough Community Primary School	Surrey	Closed
114900	Chadwell St. Mary Primary School	Thurrock	Open
100887	Alice Model Nursery School	Tower Hamlets	Open
104160	Beechdale Primary School	Walsall	Closed
103040	Church Mead Junior School	Waltham Forest	Closed
130873	Acorns Primary School	Warwickshire	Open
126489	Ludgershall Castle Primary School	Wiltshire	Open
116751	Worcester, Dines Green Primary School	Worcestershire	Open
116771	Worcester, Elbury Mount Primary School	Worcestershire	Closed
131491	Redgrave School	Worcestershire	Closed
116710	Malvern Hills Primary School	Worcestershire	Closed
107364	Rhodeway School	Bradford	Open
107228	Usher Street	Bradford	Closed
108473	Montagu Community Full Service School	Newcastle Upon Tyne	Closed
133267	Sherwood Hall School and Sixth Form College	Nottinghamshire	Closed
125272	Thomas Knyvett College	Surrey	Open

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attended schools which were taken into special measures for the first time in each year since 1997. [269878]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert will be replying and a copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 28 April 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Table A shows the number of schools placed in special measures for the first time in each academic year since 1997/98, and the number of pupils attending these schools in that year, according to the Department for Children, Schools and Families' School Census, taken in January of each year. Schools for which Schools Census data are not available have been excluded from the analysis.

Table A: Number of pupils attending schools placed in special measures for the first time in each academic year since 1997/98

Academic year	Number of schools placed in special measures for the first time	Number of pupils in schools placed in special measures for the first time
1997/98	201	83,939
1998/99	194	83,958
1999/2000	229	78,330
2000/01	136	42,908
2001/02	123	39,009
2002/03	155	51,609
2003/04	204	64,917
2004/05	95	43,130
2005/06	161	50,730
2006/07	172	55,023
2007/08	129	52,367

A copy of this reply has been sent to the right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which 15 local authorities have the *(a)* most and *(b)* highest proportion of schools assessed as inadequate by Ofsted; [271827]

(2) which 15 local authorities have the *(a)* most and *(b)* highest proportion of special schools assessed as inadequate by Ofsted. [271828]

Jim Knight: The following tables (1-4) provide the information requested. Figures are based on the most recent data published by Ofsted (31 December 2008) and relate to the inadequate categories of special measures and significant improvement.

Table 3 lists all of the local authorities that had any special schools in one of the categories of special measures or significant improvement at 31 December 2008. Figures for the number of pupil referral units in Ofsted categories are provided separately in Table 4.

Table 1: 15 local authorities with most numbers of schools in Ofsted categories—31 December 2008

LA area	Ofsted category	Primary	Pupil referral unit	Secondary	Special	Total
Northamptonshire	SM	12	—	2	—	14
	SI/NTI	5	—	1	—	6

Table 1: 15 local authorities with most numbers of schools in Ofsted categories—31 December 2008

LA area	Ofsted category	Primary	Pupil referral unit	Secondary	Special	Total
Birmingham	SM	7	—	—	—	7
	SI/NTI	6	—	6	—	12
Lancashire	SM	3	—	3	1	7
	SI/NTI	8	—	3	—	11
Hampshire	SM	4	2	—	—	6
	SI/NTI	6	—	1	1	8
Norfolk	SM	8	1	2	—	11
	SI/NTI	1	—	1	—	2
Sheffield	SM	2	—	2	—	4
	SI/NTI	6	—	1	—	7
Bradford	SM	3	—	1	—	4
	SI/NTI	3	—	3	—	6
Devon	SM	4	—	—	—	4
	SI/NTI	3	—	2	1	6
Kent	SM	3	—	—	—	3
	SI/NTI	4	—	2	—	6
Leicester City	SM	4	—	1	—	5
	SI/NTI	3	1	—	—	4
Cheshire	SM	3	—	—	—	3
	SI/NTI	4	—	1	—	5
Croydon	SM	3	—	—	—	3
	SI/NTI	3	—	2	—	5
Cumbria	SM	1	1	3	—	5
	SI/NTI	2	—	1	—	3
Nottinghamshire	SM	4	—	1	—	5
	SI/NTI	2	—	1	—	3
Leeds	SM	1	—	1	1	3
	SI/NTI	2	—	2	—	4
England	SM	155	11	53	12	231
	SI/NTI	156	3	69	4	232

Notes:
1. SM is special measures.
2. SI/NTI is significant improvement with a notice to improve.

Table 2: 15 local authorities with highest proportions of primary and secondary schools in Ofsted categories—31 December 2008

LA	Number of primary schools	Number of primary schools in SM	Number of primary schools with SI/NTI	Number of maintained secondary schools	Number of secondary schools in SM	Number of secondary schools with SI/NTI	Total primary and secondary schools	Total primary and secondary schools in a category	% of schools in a category
Greenwich	65	1	5	13	0	1	78	7	9.0
Merton	43	2	1	6	0	1	49	4	8.2
Leicester City	81	4	3	17	1	0	98	8	8.2
Croydon	89	3	3	20	0	2	109	8	7.3
Sheffield	135	2	6	25	2	1	166	11	6.9
Northamptonshire	264	12	5	39	2	1	301	20	6.6
Southwark	71	4	1	8	0	0	79	5	6.3
Warrington	70	3	2	12	0	0	82	5	6.1
Kingston upon Hull	71	1	0	14	1	3	89	5	5.9
Medway	85	0	4	19	1	1	106	6	5.8
Bournemouth	27	0	2	10	0	0	37	2	5.4
Poole	28	1	0	9	0	1	37	2	5.4
Bradford	158	3	3	27	1	3	195	10	5.4
Bromley	76	2	3	17	0	0	98	5	5.4
Bexley	59	3	0	16	1	0	79	4	5.3
England	—	—	—	—	—	—	26,799	433	2.1

Notes:
1. SM is special measures.
2. SI/NTI is significant improvement with a notice to improve.
3. Number of schools based on January 2008 final data published by DCSF in July 2008.

Table 3: Number and proportion of special schools in Ofsted categories—31 December 2008

LA area	Ofsted category	Phase	Special schools in Ofsted categories	Total maintained and non maintained special Schools in LA	% of schools in Ofsted categories
Redcar and Cleveland	SM	Spec	—	3	33
Bromley	SM	Spec	—	4	25
Telford and Wrekin	SM	Spec	—	4	25
Wigan	SM	Spec	2	8	25
Knowsley	SM	Spec	—	7	14
Leeds	SM	Spec	—	7	14
Manchester	SM and SI/NTI	Spec	2	14	14
Somerset	SM	Spec	—	8	13
Devon	SI/NTI	Spec	—	13	8
Gloucestershire	SM	Spec	—	13	8
Hampshire	SI/NTI	Spec	—	27	4
Lancashire	SM	Spec	—	31	3
England	SM and SI/NTI	Spec	16	1,065	2

Notes:
1. There were 2 non-maintained special schools in Ofsted categories at 31 December 2008.
2. SM is special measures.
3. SI/NTI is significant improvement with a notice to improve.
4. Number of schools based on January 2008 final data published by DCSF in July 2008.

Table 4: Number and proportion of pupil referral units in Ofsted categories—31 December 2008

LA area	Ofsted category	Phase	PRUs in Ofsted categories	Total PRUs in LA	% of PRUs in Ofsted categories
Bath and NE Somerset	SM	PRU	—	1	100
Darlington	SI/NTI	PRU	—	1	100
Leicestershire	SM	PRU	—	1	100
Poole	SM	PRU	—	1	100
Leicester City	SI/NTI	PRU	—	2	50
Cumbria	SM	PRU	—	3	33
Hounslow	SI/NTI	PRU	—	3	33
Walsall	SM	PRU	1	3	33
West Sussex	SM	PRU	1	3	33
Hampshire	SM	PRU	2	7	29
Havering	SM	PRU	1	4	25
Norfolk	SM	PRU	1	5	20
Staffordshire	SM	PRU	1	6	17
England	SM and SI/NTI	PRU	14	455	3

Notes:
1. SM is special measures.
2. SI/NTI is significant improvement with a notice to improve.
3. Number of schools based on January 2008 final data published by DSCF in July 2008.

Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* independent schools, *(b)* comprehensive schools, *(c)* special schools, *(d)* pupil referral units and *(e)* other schools took GCSEs in (i) science, (ii) science and additional science and (iii) separate science subjects in 2008. [262485]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table:

Number of GCSE entries by pupils at the end of KS4 in science subjects, by school-type in 2008

	Subject	(a) Independent[1]	(b) Comprehensive	(c) Special schools[2]	(d) Pupil referral Units[3]	(e) Other schools[4]	All schools
(i)	Core science	20,054	432,711	2,112	1,312	35,408	491,597
(ii)	Core science plus additional science	18,193	307,177	230	50	25,966	351,616
(iii)	Physics	14,414	41,094	13	15	11,785	67,321
	Chemistry	14,968	41,564	17	11	11,729	68,289
	Biology	15,778	46,116	25	124	12,611	74,654

[1] Independent mainstream schools only.
[2] Special schools include independent special schools.
[3] Pupil referral units excluding hospital schools.
[4] Other schools include selective, modern and other maintained schools.
Note:
Vocational GCSE entries in Applied Science are not included in this answer.

Secondary Education: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to support pupils taking *(a)* A-level and *(b)* GCSE examinations in Coventry. [271651]

Jim Knight: Recent improvements in A-level achievement in Coventry are particularly encouraging. The following figures[1] show that Coventry pupils' achievements have improved between 2006[2] and 2008 compared with the average improvement for England, both in terms of the average point score per student at A-level and in the average point score achieved per A-level exam.

[1] *Source:*

The published Achievement and Attainment Tables 2008.

[2] Comparisons with earlier years are not possible because of changes in the points awarded for particular examinations and grades in 2005/06.

	Average point score per student			*Change*	*Average point score per exam*			*Change*
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2006 to 2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2006 to 2008*
England average	721.5	731.2	740	18.5	206.2	207.5	209.4	3.2
Coventry average	624.5	660.7	678.2	53.7	196.6	199.6	203.9	7.3

We have put in place a programme of work force support in 2009-10 delivered by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service for managers and practitioners in all areas of the country, including Coventry. This includes support aimed at developing examination centres' understanding of changes to A-levels, and promoting and sharing effective practice between centres.

Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A-C GCSE and 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and maths*

Percentage

	1997[1]		*2008*[2]			
	5 A-C*	*5 A*-C including English and maths*	*5 A*-C*	*5 A*-C including English and maths*	*+/-change (percentage points) since 1997 5 A*-C*	*+/-change (percentage points) since 1997 5 A*-C including English and maths*
National	45.1	35.6	65.3	47.6	+20.2	+12
Coventry	36.9	27.1	60.8	41.8	+23.9	+14.7

[1] 15-year-old pupils.
[2] End of key stage 4 pupils.

As the table above shows, we have made substantial progress in raising GCSE attainment in secondary schools over the last 10 years. Although the rate of progress in the number of pupils achieving five or more good GCSEs in Coventry has exceeded national rates over the same period, more is needed to reduce the gap in attainment still further. Under the National Challenge, the Department is providing wide-ranging support to eight of the authority's schools this year. The National Challenge supports schools with the lowest GCSE results, so that by 2011 in every secondary school at least 30 per cent. of students will achieve at least five GCSEs at A*-C including English and maths.

The National Strategies also provides support to schools in Coventry and this includes support and challenge in relation to school improvement, English, maths, science, behaviour and attendance, SEN and ethnic minority achievement. The strategies have also supported the provision and delivery of city-side GCSE English and maths revision courses (held at the Ricoh stadium) for year 11 pupils (April 2009).

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which official in his Department was first informed of the contents of the letter of 2 March 2009 from the Learning and Skills Council to school sixth forms and sixth form colleges regarding funding. [274159]

Jim Knight: It is not customary to identify a civil servant by name.

Social Services: Children

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each unitary local authority allocated per head of population for children's services in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [272531]

Jim Knight: The available information on how much was allocated by each unitary local authority for children's services per head of population in 2008-09 is shown in the table. Information for 2009-10 is currently being collated and validated. It will not be available until later in 2009.

Total net budget for unitary local authorities in England covering education, community, youth justice and children and young people's services 2008-09

Local authority name	*£*	*£ per head*
England	40,192,236,000	3,690
Unitary LAs	6,617,603,000	3,680
Bath and North East Somerset	126,044,000	3,670
Blackburn with Darwen	138,470,000	3,570
Blackpool	109,753,000	3,650
Bournemouth	106,990,000	3,740
Bracknell Forest	82,532,000	3,220
Brighton and Hove	184,198,000	4,040

Total net budget for unitary local authorities in England covering education, community, youth justice and children and young people's services 2008-09

Local authority name	*£*	*£ per head*
Bristol	275,311,000	3,560
Darlington	72,261,000	3,360
Derby	192,773,000	3,680
East Riding of Yorkshire	240,669,000	3,550
Halton	102,069,000	3,760
Hartlepool	83,044,000	3,940
Herefordshire	116,741,000	3,240
Isle of Wight	104,948,000	3,810
Kingston upon Hull	220,154,000	4,140
Leicester	259,716,000	3,930
Luton	175,472,000	3,810
Medway	221,706,000	3,700
Middlesbrough	104,980,000	3,420
Milton Keynes	208,953,000	3,850
North East Lincolnshire	125,836,000	3,530
North Lincolnshire	120,031,000	3,460
North Somerset	137,674,000	3,290
Nottingham	240,871,000	4,440
Peterborough	158,971,000	4,140
Plymouth	203,149,000	4,120
Poole	96,008,000	3,630
Portsmouth	134,061,000	3,540
Reading	98,245,000	3,550
Redcar and Cleveland	115,326,000	3,840
Rutland	23,981,000	2,860
Slough	126,570,000	4,590
South Gloucestershire	186,083,000	3,300
Southampton	152,723,000	3,610
Southend-on-Sea	145,047,000	4,200
Stockton-on-Tees	151,006,000	3,560
Stoke-on-Trent	179,851,000	3,620
Swindon	141,378,000	3,480
Telford and the Wrekin	124,939,000	3,210
Thurrock	120,832,000	3,450
Torbay	99,058,000	3,730
Warrington	145,950,000	3,410
West Berkshire	130,289,000	3,890
Windsor and Maidenhead	102,422,000	3,250
Wokingham	117,547,000	3,420
York	112,970,000	3,250

Notes:
1. The figures for the total net budget covering education, community, youth justice and children and young people's services are drawn from local authorities' 2008-09 Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection (Budget Table 1 line 8) submitted to the DCSF. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.
2. The per head figures are calculated by dividing the total net budget by the projected population aged 0 to 17 in each LA. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and may not sum due to rounding.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with special educational needs attended mainstream schools assessed by Ofsted as inadequate in each year since 1997. [269876]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 April 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Table A shows how many pupils with and without special educational needs attended mainstream schools (including nursery, primary and secondary schools and excluding special schools and pupil referral units) that were in special measures at the end of each academic year since 1997/98. Table B shows these figures as percentages.

Special measures is an Ofsted category, defined in the Education Act 2005, meaning that a school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement. Please be aware that the framework for inspecting maintained schools changed in September 2005. As a result, there has been no consistent 'inadequate' category over this period. These tables are, therefore, limited to those maintained schools placed in special measures, as this category has been in place throughout the period in question.

Pupil numbers have been calculated using information from the Department for Children, Schools and Families' School Census (pupil-level) on pupils registered at one school only, and on pupils registered at two schools, but using their main school as recorded on the census, taken in January of each year.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Number of pupils with and without special educational needs, attending nursery, primary and secondary schools which were in special measures at the end of each academic year since 1997/98

	Number of pupils in schools placed in special measures		
	With special educational needs	*Without special educational needs*	*Total*
1997/98	42,450	107,283	149,733
1998/99	36,069	93,433	129,502
1999/2000	36,069	87,855	123,924
2000/01	30,933	76,441	107,374
2001/02	23,206	68,068	91,274
2002/03	21,112	70,928	92,040
2003/04	29,985	99,611	129,596
2004/05	24,460	82,212	106,672
2005/06	19,856	66,929	86,785
2006/07	20,505	63,768	84,273
2007/08	21,372	64,504	85,876

Note:
Figures are based on School Census (pupil level) data from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Table B: Percentage of pupils with and without special educational needs, attending nursery, primary and secondary schools which were in special measures at the end of each academic year since 1997/98

	Percentage of pupils in schools placed in special measures		
	With special educational needs	*Without special educational needs*	*Total*
1997/98	28	72	100
1998/99	28	72	100
1999/2000	29	71	100
2000/01	29	71	100
2001/02	25	75	100
2002/03	23	77	100
2003/04	23	77	100
2004/05	23	77	100
2005/06	23	77	100
2006/07	24	76	100

Table B: Percentage of pupils with and without special educational needs, attending nursery, primary and secondary schools which were in special measures at the end of each academic year since 1997/98

	Percentage of pupils in schools placed in special measures		
	With special educational needs	Without special educational needs	Total
2007/08	25	75	100

Note:
Figures are based on School Census (pupil level) data from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Teachers

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers have worked in (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three or more schools in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [273399]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the administration costs of the Teachers' Pension Scheme were in each of the last 10 years. [272651]

Jim Knight: Following a competitive tendering exercise, a seven year contract for the administration of the Teachers' Pension Scheme was awarded to Capita in 1996 . The contract value was £70 million. The contract was re-tendered at the end of the first contract period and Capita was awarded a new seven year contract in October 2003. The value of this contract is £62 million. In both contracts, payments were spread evenly across the contract period.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance the Teachers' Pension Scheme issues on enhancements under the scheme for teaching staff who are members of the scheme and *(a)* are made redundant, *(b)* take early retirement other than on grounds of ill health and *(c)* take early retirement on grounds of ill health; [272654]

(2) what his policy is on the size of redundancy payments for teaching staff; and if he will make a statement. [272655]

Jim Knight: The Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) is governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 1997 (as amended) which provide for payment of enhanced benefits in circumstances where a person is entitled to ill-health retirement benefits and their ability to undertake any form of gainful employment is severely impaired. These regulations also enable an employer to award premature retirement benefits to teachers whose employment has been terminated on grounds of redundancy or in the interests of the efficient discharge of the employer's functions. The regulations contain no provision for employers to award enhanced premature retirement benefits from the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Provision for employers to enhance premature retirement benefits up to prescribed maxima is contained in the Teachers (Compensation for Redundancy and Premature Retirement) Regulations 1997 (as amended).

These regulations also enable employers to award redundancy payments that exceed the minimum payable under employment law. All payments made under these regulations are met in full by the employer and it is for each employer to determine the circumstances when payments are made to individuals and to be satisfied that the payments do not exceed the prescribed limits.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of pension payments to teaching staff who have taken early retirement between the date of their retirement and the date they reached the Teachers' Pension Scheme normal retirement age was in each of the last five years. [272656]

Jim Knight: The Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) is a statutory scheme and pension payments are determined in line with regulations. Under those regulations, there are no additional scheme costs resulting from cases where teachers retire early other than where retirement is on the grounds of ill health where unreduced, and sometimes enhanced, benefits are put into payment.

In all other cases of early retirement, benefits payable from the Teachers' Pension Scheme are automatically reduced to take account of the fact that they are put into payment before the scheme's normal pension age and therefore have the same actuarial value as if they had been paid at normal pension age.

The Department has been working alongside employers and the teacher representative groups to seek to improve the care and support afforded to ill teachers, and thereby reduce rates of ill health retirement.

Young People: Nutrition

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to help young people understand the nutritional content of packaged foods; and if he will make a statement. [272848]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All secondary school students have an entitlement to undertake the 'Licence to Cook' programme. Included in the programme is a module 'Wise food shopping' where young people gain an understanding of food labelling and nutritional content of food they might buy (including packaged foods) within the context of making informed choices.

Such knowledge is also applied through the practical work that the students undertake, for example comparing a homemade lasagne with a purchased product.

The new food technology examination specifications, at Key Stage 4 also require students to know about and understand food labelling and nutritional content and are frequently tested in the GCSE examination.

Young People: Voluntary Work

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans the Government has to promote a requirement for young people to undertake community service. [272006]

Jim Knight: It is the Government's ambition that, in time, all young people will contribute at least 50 hours of community service by the age of 19. On 24 April 2009, the Government announced a £146 million funding package to help get every young person in the country contributing to their communities. The package is made up of the following three elements:

A new programme, beginning this September, offering 20,000 16 to 18-year-olds the opportunity to undertake full time community service, alongside achieving relevant qualifications, as part of the Entry to Employment programme;

A set of intensive pilots designed to test ways of significantly increasing the proportions of young people within a given area participating in community service. These pilots will begin during the forthcoming school year and will work with schools and youth and community organisations in a number of areas, to involve some 14,000 school pupils aged 14-16;

Building on the foundations created by citizenship education, a new package of support to enable all schools to provide opportunities for their pupils aged 14-16 to participate in community service. This will include enabling relevant agencies including V (the national youth volunteering organisation) to support all schools in identifying and arranging suitable service opportunities; new guidance and support for schools on how to facilitate effective service learning; and work to develop an effective accreditation approach.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Local Government

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships each local authority is providing. [274420]

Mr. Simon: I have placed a copy of a table, showing apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship starts in each local authority in 2007/08, in the House Libraries.

Bologna Process

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what matters were discussed at the recent Ministerial meeting on the Bologna Process; who attended the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [273606]

Mr. Lammy: I led the UK delegation at the meeting of higher education Ministers from the 46 countries participating in the Bologna process, held in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium on 28-29 April. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress in implementing the Bologna reforms to date and priorities for the coming decade. We welcomed the fact that there continued to be good progress overall in implementing the reforms, and agreed that we needed to redouble our efforts at European, national and institutional level to ensure full implementation across the European higher education area. The Communiqué issued at the conclusion of our discussions sets out clear priorities for the future, including the importance of widening participation, making lifelong learning an integral part of our education systems, employability and increasing the mobility of students and staff.

The summit also included the first Bologna Policy Forum, where the Ministers from the Bologna process countries had the opportunity to discuss worldwide co-operation and partnership in higher education with Ministers from 15 non-European countries.

The statement jointly issued by participants at the conclusion of out discussions reaffirmed our desire to work closely together.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make an estimate of the number of undergraduate places additional to those available in 2008-09 which would be required to increase the rate of participation in higher education to 50 per cent. of people between 18 and 30 years old. [274357]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to estimate the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) in this way.

The HEIPR is not based simply on the total number of students (or 'places') in the system in any given year, but on the number of new entrants in each year. The specification of the HEIPR means that it depends on the characteristics of those entrants (for example age, domicile, length of participation and any prior higher education participation of more than six months) which depend on decisions made by higher education institutions and further education colleges, and cannot be reliably estimated.

The HEIPR is also impacted by changes in the total England population of 17 to 30-year-olds; so a theoretical figure that might have a given impact in HEIPR in one year would not have the same impact in another year when the demography of this population will be different.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was allocated under the Widening Participation programme to universities in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [274044]

Mr. Lammy: This Government are fully committed to ensuring every young person has a fair chance of attending university. And we are making progress with the proportion of young entrants from lower socio-economic groups going to university increasing steadily, reaching almost 30 per cent. in 2007.

The amount spent on all programmes to encourage and widen participation in higher education in the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 was as follows. Figures are £ million to nearest whole number.

			£ million
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Aimhigher[1]	102	87	80
Student support[2]	1,411	1,634	1,962
Widening participation allocation[3]	284	345	356
University bursaries and outreach[4]	0	116	192

	2005-06	2006-07	£ million 2007-08
Total	1,797	2,182	2,590

[1] This is the total Aimhigher budget. The amounts allocated specifically to universities are not available at national level.

[2] The student support figures are for all English domiciled students and not just those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Includes student loans Resource Account Budget (RAB) charge, fee loans, student support grants, Maintenance Grant, HE Grant, grants for vulnerable students, tuition fee grants, grants for part-time students and access funds and bursaries. The student loans RAB charge estimates the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing off the student loans issued in that year; it does not represent the amount of cash lent to students, which has risen each year since the introduction of student loans. Figures for 1997-2007 are outturn; that for 2007-08 is estimated outturn; those for 2008-11 are plans.

[3] These figures also include the allocations for improving the retention of non traditional students, and to widen access and improve provision for disabled students.

[4] University bursaries and outreach are funded by universities from their tuition fee income under the terms of their access agreements with the Office for Fair Access.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to announce the outcome of the bidding process for funding under the new university challenge scheme. [274581]

Mr. Lammy: Decisions about the funding of universities are for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), not Ministers, and this applies to New University Challenge. HEFCE published guidance that outlines application procedures and their decision making process on 9 March 2009.

Innovation: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to develop innovation in Coventry. [272030]

Mr. Lammy: The Technology Strategy Board (TSB), an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by DIUS, is the main national provider of innovation support in the UK. Through the TSB, 25 companies and three higher education establishments in the Coventry area are currently involved in 34 Collaborative R&D projects and five Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.

The Collaborative R&D projects and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, which enable companies to work with the UK knowledge base to develop new products, processes and services, are jointly funded by business and have a total value of nearly £100 million. Of this, £41 million is grant funding from the TSB.

Advantage West Midlands (AWM) also funds the Innovation Network project, which is managed by Coventry University. The network provides businesses with the desire to innovate the opportunity to collaborate with other businesses and access funding of between £10,000 to £15,000.

AWM has also invested £1.4 million in the first phase of the transformation of the Gosford Gate area into a vibrant trading gateway and centre for creative enterprises. The area will focus on arts, IT and design companies, which will feed off and support each other as well existing businesses. It is expected to become the cauldron of creative talent in the city and beyond. The scheme is a partnership between AWM, Coventry city council, Coventry Warwickshire and Solihull Partnership, Far Gosford Street businesses and residents, Heritage Lottery Fund, and local developers Complex Development Projects Ltd. It is one element in the radical £2.2 billion transformation of Coventry into a 21st century city.

Coventry is also able to benefit from regional innovation projects including the INDEX innovation voucher scheme and the Innovation Advisory Service available through Business Link West Midlands, and from national programmes such as the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF), which supports universities to work with business and public services and drive innovation. For example, HEIF funding has been used to support Coventry University's Institute of Creative Enterprise and Serious Games Institute.

Research: Standards

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the latest research assessment exercise in assisting universities to develop centres of internationally excellent research. [274172]

Mr. Lammy: The aim of the research assessment exercise (RAE) is to assess the quality of research in higher education institutions. The RAE informs the allocation of the quality related block grant research funding, which is awarded on the basis of excellence. Funding on the basis of excellence gives institutions an incentive to drive up the quality of research. The 2008 RAE identified that 55 per cent. of research in England was either "World Leading" or "Internationally Excellent". The latest report on the UK's comparative international research performance shows the UK as second in the world, only to the USA, with 12 per cent. of total world citations.

Students: Disability Living Allowance

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on the percentage of students at *(a)* the London School of Economics, *(b)* Birmingham University, *(c)* Oxford University, *(d)* Cambridge University, *(e)* University College London, *(f)* Bristol University and *(g)* Durham University who are claiming disability living allowance. [274428]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not hold information on students who claim disability living allowance. The latest available information on students who claim disabled students' allowance (DSA) is shown in the table. Information on postgraduate students who claim DSA is not available. Figures are from the "Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in June 2009.

Percentage of full-time first degree, all undergraduate and part-time undergraduate students in receipt of disabled students' allowance (DSA), academic year 2006/07

Higher education institution	Full-time first degree		Full-time all undergraduate[1]		Part-time undergraduate[2]	
	Percentage in receipt of DSA	Bench mark	Percentage in receipt of DSA	Bench mark	Percentage in receipt of DSA	Bench mark
University of Birmingham	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.3	0.5	1.7
University of Bristol	3.8	3.0	3.8	3.0	1.8	3.8
University of Cambridge	0.9	2.5	0.9	2.5	0.4	2.2
University of Durham	3.7	3.1	3.6	3.1	0.6	3.7
London School of Economics and Political Science	3.6	3.0	3.6	3.0	4.0	3.3
University of Oxford	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.2	3.5
University College, London	2.6	3.3	2.6	3.3	5.7	4.4

[1] All full-time undergraduate figures and full-time first degree figures will contain an element of double counting, as first degree students will be included in the "all undergraduate" category.
[2] Benchmarks for part-time undergraduates exclude the Open University.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA.

For each institution, the performance indicator is shown against a benchmark. This is a sector average which is adjusted for each institution to take into account the following factors: subject of study, qualifications on entry and age on entry. The benchmarks can be used to show how a university is performing compared to the sector as a whole, and also help to determine whether a meaningful comparison can be drawn between two or more universities. The benchmarks are not targets.

Students: Disabled

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department provides to universities on *(a)* the provision of help and support to students with disabilities and *(b)* compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA); what assessment his Department has made of the levels of (i) provision for students with disabilities and (ii) compliance with the DDA of (A) all universities and (B) members of the Russell Group; and if he will make a statement. [274429]

Mr. Lammy: Higher education institutions (HEIs) are classed as public authorities in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA). As such they are legally required to meet both the general duty and specific duties to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people in higher education (HE). Compliance with the law is the responsibility of institutions themselves and enforcement the responsibility of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has provided guidance to HEIs on supporting disabled students. In 1999, jointly with the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales it published "Guidance on base-level provision for disabled students in higher education institutions". The base level provision document contains information that is still useful and relevant today.

HEFCE is reviewing its policy as it relates to disabled students. This review includes an appraisal of its support to the sector in meeting the needs of disabled students and research commissioned jointly with the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. The research will look at the sector's support to disabled students and the progress that has been made since the publication of the guidance. HEFCE will be publishing an outcomes document in the summer outlining the results of the review and HEFCE's future policy and strategy for supporting the sector in this area.

The Department has published its progress report on disability equality in December 2008. The report's focus was on looking across the Department's policy areas to provide an assessment of progress towards disability equality. It did not focus on the compliance of our partners or stakeholders. The full report can be accessed here:

http://dius.ecgroup.net/Publications/DIUS-Corporate/EqualityandDiversity.aspx

The report reflects that there has been significant advancement in the support provided to disabled students in HE, and in their ability to access HE, through the funding provided to HEIs to support such students and via the direct provision of disabled students' allowances.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are learning each language indigenous to Afghanistan with support from his Department. [272934]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD considers the principal languages of Afghanistan to be Balochi, Pashtu, Dari and Farsi, and conducts training accordingly.

In order to meet requirements for current operations, all military personnel deploying to Afghanistan receive a basic level of Pashtu training under Operational Training Advisory Group remit, and are equipped with a Pashtu language card.

In addition to this, Defence is delivering the language training provided in the following table.

Those who received training in financial year 2008-09 have not necessarily completed their training, while the figures for 2009-10 may be subject to in-year changes.

	Financial year	
	2008-09	2009-10
Balochi	0	2

	Financial year	
	2008-09	2009-10
Dari	21	28
Farsi	19	18
Pashtu	228	265

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-fatal UK military casualties there have been in Helmand province since 2006. [273308]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between 1 January 2006 and 15 April 2009, the latest date for which casualty information is available, there were 744 non-fatal UK military casualties in Afghanistan, of these 77 have been very seriously injured and 101 have been seriously injured. These figures include injuries as a result of hostile action and non battle injuries, and exclude all casualties with natural causes. The location information available does not provide enough detail to give figures for Helmand province.

Casualty statistics for UK military and civilian personnel in Afghanistan are routinely updated each fortnight on the MOD website, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of shots fired by UK armed forces in Helmand province since 2006. [273309]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the right hon. and learned Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the cost of the two aircraft carriers on order; and what the total estimated cost was in 2006-07. [273311]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Following the equipment examination we have estimated the costs of the two Queen Elizabeth (QE) Class aircraft carriers in conjunction with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance and other stakeholders. Further negotiations with industry are proceeding and it would not be appropriate to release any estimates until these negotiations conclude and agreement has been reached. This is currently expected to be later this year.

The Secretary of State for Defence during the CSR and Aircraft Carriers debate on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 865, announced that the approved QE Class project cost at the time was £3.9 billion.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many foreign nationals from each country of origin *(a)* serving and *(b)* who formerly served in the UK armed forces are estimated would become eligible for residency in the UK if there were an automatic right to residency as a current or former service person. [273352]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 7 May 2009]*: Foreign and Commonwealth personnel are able to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK or Indefinite Leave to Enter (ILE) the UK, or Settlement as they are more commonly known, upon discharge from the Services so long as they have completed a minimum of 4 years Service at the point of discharge. It is for the Home Office to decide whether or not an individual meets all the requirements to be granted ILR or ILE.

Country of Origin data are not currently available due to an ongoing data validation of the Ministry of Defence Joint Personnel Administrative system (JPA).

(a) The number of foreign nationals serving in the trained regular UK armed forces as at 1 January 2009 by nationality is shown in the following table.

Number of foreign nationals serving in the trained regular UK armed forces as at 1 January 2009 by nationality[1]

	All Services[2]	Naval Service[2]	Army[2]	RAF[2]
Non-UK total	7,530	630	6,830	90
Commonwealth total[3]	6,970	570	6,340	60
Antiguan	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Australian	80	10	60	[4]
Bahamian	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Bangladeshi	10	[4]	10	[4]
Barbadian	10	[4]	10	[4]
Belizean	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Botswanan	10	[4]	10	[4]
British Commonwealth	10	[4]	10	[4]
Cameroonian	40	[4]	40	[4]
Canadian	80	20	50	[4]
Citizen of Fiji	2,220	100	2,110	10
Citizen of Seychelles	10	[4]	10	[4]
Citizen of Sri Lanka	10	[4]	10	[4]
Citizen of St. Kitts	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Dominican	30	10	20	[4]
Gambian	160	10	150	[4]
Ghanaian	740	10	740	[4]

Number of foreign nationals serving in the trained regular UK armed forces on as 1 January 2009 by nationality[1]

	All Services[2]	Naval Service[2]	Army[2]	RAF[2]
Grenadian	60	[4]	50	[4]
Guyanese	20	[4]	20	[4]
Indian	80	10	60	[4]
Jamaican	640	30	600	10
Kenyan	140	10	130	[4]
Lesotho	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Malawian	170	10	160	[4]
Malaysian	10	[4]	[4]	[4]
Maltese	10	[4]	[4]	[4]
Mauritian	40	[4]	40	[4]
Namibian	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
New Zealander	80	10	60	[4]
Nigerian	120	10	110	[4]
Pakistani	10	[4]	10	[4]
Papua New Guinean	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Sierra Leonean	40	[4]	40	[4]
Singaporean	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
South African	840	60	770	10
St. Lucian	200	10	190	[4]
Swazi	10	[4]	10	[4]
Tanzanian	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Tongan	10	[4]	10	[4]
Trinidad and Tobago citizen	100	20	60	10
Ugandan	70	[4]	70	[4]
Vincentian	430	200	230	[4]
Zambian	30	10	20	[4]
Zimbabwean	460	20	440	[4]
Other Foreign total	570	50	490	30
Afghan	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
American	10	[4]	[4]	[4]
Brazilian	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Dutch	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Filipino	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Foreign	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
French	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
German	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Greek	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Irish[5]	280	50	210	30
Mauritanian	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Nepalese	260	[4]	260	[4]
Swiss	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Ukrainian	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Unknown total[6]	1,140	150	850	130

[1] Nationality is as recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA).
[2] Provisional.
[3] Includes Zimbabwean and Fijian citizens, who continue to retain Commonwealth status under the British Nationality Act 1981.
[4] Zero or rounded to zero
[5] Citizens of the Republic of Ireland.
[6] Includes those with an unrecorded nationality.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
DASA (Quad Service)

(b) It is not possible to provide numbers of foreign nationals who served in the UK armed forces but had left by the end of 2008.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 33-34WS, on Army nationality policy, whether he has received representations from other governments on the employment of their citizens in the UK armed forces. [273588]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department has not received any representation from other governments on the employment of their citizens in the UK armed forces since this statement was made.

Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Coventry South of 9 February 2009,

Official Report, column 1531W, on service personnel: retention, which pinch point trades his Department is monitoring; what the exit rates of such trades are; what steps his Department is taking to improve retention and recruitment in these areas; and if he will make a statement. [273589]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All pinch point trades are monitored closely by the single services and considerable effort is expended in reducing the impact on these groups of people through careful management and financial incentives to encourage them to stay in the armed forces.

Recruitment in to all three services has improved over the past few months, primarily as a result of targeted national, regional and local level recruiting campaigns. There has also been a significant increase in expressions of interest through the Armed Forces Recruitment Offices and through on-line applications, which is attributed in part to the current economic circumstances and rising unemployment. Taking the armed forces as a whole, retention rates are stable and we have seen no sudden outflow of personnel. There is real concern, however, that in some important areas exit rates are too high. These areas are continuously reviewed and the Department has put in place a wide range of measures to improve recruitment and retention in the armed forces including: career management, improvement to conditions of service and work/life balance, extensions to normal engagement lengths, commitment bonuses and targeted Financial Retention Initiatives. Examples of schemes and incentives in place are: Golden Hellos, Commitment Bonuses, Recruit Bounty Schemes and targeted Recruitment and Retention Incentives. Each incentive is tailored to meet specific Service requirements.

The following tables show the pinch point trades liability, shortfalls, outflow and voluntary outflow (VO) in real numbers and percentage figures for quarter 3 of the Operational and Manning Pinch Point statistics. These are the latest available figures.

Royal Navy

		Shortfall				
	Liability	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*VO (percentage)*
Operational Pinch Point Trades						
Lt Cdr X SM Command Qualified (SM(CQ))	47	2	5	n/a	3	0
Lt X SM IWC Qualified and SQEP	40	1	3	n/a	16	7.5
Principal Warfare Officers	359	70	20	n/a	38	4.0
RN Harrier GR7 Instructors	7	4	57	n/a	1	0
GR7 Harrier Pilots - Lt	35	14	40	n/a	0	4.0
MCD/MWO Lts	81	34	43	n/a	7	3.8
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	110	24	22	n/a	22	5.0
Merlin Pilots	122	44	36	n/a	7	2.5
Merlin Observers	116	45	39	n/a	1	1.5
Merlin Aircrewmen	103	23	22	n/a	10	14.6
Leading Seaman General Warfare	1,105	290	26	n/a	106	8.3
Able Rate Diver	135	40	30	n/a	12	10.0
Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified (SQEP)	34	4	12	n/a	16	4.0
Able Rate 1 Seaman	388	97	25	n/a	74	16.0
Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist	666	31	5	n/a	173	13.0
Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems	367	32	9	n/a	77	16.0
Leading Aircraft Controllers	73	32	44	n/a	5	6.5
Royal Marines Other Ranks (Pt - Cpl)	6,525	522	8	n/a	484	7.3
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	178	34	17	n/a	30	6.0
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	348	64	18	n/a	3	Not available
Cat A2 Nuclear Watchkeepers	189	32	17	n/a	12	6.0
Cat B Nuclear Watchkeepers	377	61	16	n/a	44	6.0
L Logs (CS) (P)	328	67	25	n/a	27	2.0
AB Logs (CS) (P)	456	9	2	n/a	48	6.0
L Logs (Pers)	239	17	7	n/a	26	4.0
AB Logs (Pers)	392	1	0	n/a	49	9.0
LS (MW)	70	5	8	n/a	3	6.0
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	124	8	7	n/a	13	7.0

Notes:
1. Outflow is to January 2009.
2. Lt X SM IWC Qualified and SQEP and Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified(SQEP) are the same group and are 16 in total but they are two separate OPPs.
3. SQEP means Suitably Qualified and Experience Personnel, i.e. have the skills to do a particular job and in case of SM if AWC are qualified to be a Watch Leader.

Army

		Shortfall				
	Liability	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*VO (percentage)*
Operational Pinch Point Trades						
RE Clk of Wks - SSgt-WO1	248	11	4.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

Army

	Liability	Shortfall Number	Shortfall Percentage	Inflow	Outflow	VO (percentage)
RLC Ammo Tech - Cpl-SSgt	306	130	42.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Infantry - Pte-LCpl	14,980	1,600	10.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME Rec Mech - LCpl-Cpl	339	126	37.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RE EOD - Cpl-SSgt	131	22	16.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME VM - Cfn-Cpl	3,521	297	8.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Int OPMI - Cpl-Sgt	708	232	32.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME Armourer - Cfn-Cpl	377	74	19.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
RA Gunner - Gnr-Bdr (including Para/Cdo Gnrs and OP Asst)	4,987	497	10.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manning Pinch Point Trades						
AMS Radiologist - Maj+	4	2	50.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS ITU Nurse - Cpl-Capt	121	86	71.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS EM Nurse - Cpl-Capt	101	63	62.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS Radiographer - Cpl+	24	12	50.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS Anaesthetist - Maj+	49	26	53.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS Orth Surg - Maj+	13	3	23.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS Gen Surg - Maj+	17	7	41.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RE ME Geo - Spr-WO2	365	81	22.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RLC P&C Op - Pte-Cpl	433	-2	-0.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
RA UAV Op - LBdr-SSgt	370	71	19.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RE ME Fitter - Spr-LCpl	495	86	17.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
AGC(SPS) Mil Admin - Pte- Sgt	2,666	374	14.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS GMP - Capt+	155	18	11.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
R Signals IS Engr – Cpl-Sgt	252	128	50.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
CAMUS – Musician	300	101	33.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS ODP – Cpl+	95	14	14.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS RGN – Cpl-Sgt	293	30	10.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RE ME C3S – Spr-LCpl	712	101	14.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RLC Chef – Pte-LCpl	1,459	76	5.2	n/a	n/a	n/a

Royal Air Force

	Liability	Shortfall Number	Shortfall Percentage	Inflow	Outflow	VO (percentage)
Operational Pinch Point Trades						
Flying Branch (Career Stream)(Senior Officer)	677	101	15	100	70	20
Pilot (Junior Officer)	1,490	202	14	160	150	40
Operations Support (Intelligence)	229	5	2	10	20	10
Operations Support (Regiment)	275	40	14	30	20	10
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	224	5	2	20	—	—
Medical	282	69	24	—	10	—
Medical Nursing Officer	179	51	28	10	20	10
Weapons System Operator (Crewman)	577	74	13	70	30	10
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	63	13	21	10	10	—
Mechanical Transport Technician	355	13	4	—	30	20
Gunner	1,924	222	11	330	190	110
Fire Fighter	545	27	5	110	60	20
Air Traffic Control/Flight Operations Manager/ Flight Operations Assistant	1,246	18	1	110	80	40
Logistics (Mover)	895	46	5	50	70	50
Manning Pinch Point Trades						
Weapons System Officer (Junior Officer)	513	74	14	10	30	10
Operations Support (Aerospace Battle Manager)	342	49	14	10	20	10
Operations Support (Air Traffic Control)	397	26	6	20	30	10
Personnel (Support)	521	27	5	50	40	20
Personnel (Training)	219	21	10	10	20	10
Dental	71	14	20	—	10	—
Chaplains	78	15	19	—	10	—
Aircraft Technician (Mechanical)	4,965	666	13	10	290	200
Aircraft Technician (Avionics)	3,942	505	13	10	260	180
General Technician (Electrical)	551	60	11	20	70	40
General Technician (Mechanical)	963	527	75	20	30	20

Royal Air Force

	Shortfall					
	Liability	Number	Percentage	Inflow	Outflow	UO (percentage)
Intelligence (Analyst)	679	89	13	40	30	20
Survival Equipment Fitter	607	45	7	30	80	40
Biomedical Scientist	15	6	40	0	–	–
Dental Nurse	131	9	7	20	10	10
Musician	175	23	13	10	10	–

Armed Forces: Languages

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are learning the German language with support from his Department. [272935]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In financial year 2008-09, 51 members of the armed forces were being taught German. In financial year 2009-10, 30 members are projected to be receiving this training and in 2010-11 this number is expected to be 52.

Armed Forces: Pay

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* golden hello, *(b)* commitment bonus, *(c)* recruit an oppo bounty and *(d)* retention financial packages are available to members of the armed forces. [273583]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is a wide range of recruitment and retention incentives available to members of the armed forces and these include golden hellos, commitment bonuses, recruit bounty schemes and targeted recruitment and retention incentives. Each incentive is tailored to meet specific service requirements.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Army rejoin bounty has been paid in respect of each *(a)* unit and *(b)* trade in each year since its inception. [273586]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army Rejoin Bounty was introduced in November 2002 to offer a partial solution to critical manning shortfalls in certain Career Employment Groups. The scheme was then expanded in November 2003 as part of the wider Pinch Point Financial Incentive Scheme. It has been agreed to further expand the scheme under the Exceptional Action Measures to increase the amounts payable and widen the eligibility of those who qualify.

The extensions to the range, value and eligibility of these bounty payments, as well as data coding problems in the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) tool, have resulted in both the historic and current information not being held in the format requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many residents of *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland enrolled in the UK armed forces in the last six months. [272894]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to answer the question as asked without incurring disproportionate cost. Between 1 October 2008 and 31 March 2009, the Armed Forces Career Office in Belfast recruited five officers and 100 other ranks. However these figures could include non-residents, and Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland residents could well have enlisted elsewhere in the UK. In addition some specialists, such as medical personnel and chaplains, are recruited through other establishments.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were recruited into the armed forces in 2007-08. [273312]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The intake to the untrained strength of UK Regular Forces, excluding Gurkhas, full time Reserve personnel, and mobilised reservists, in financial year 2007-08 by gender is provided as follows.

Females – 2,090[1]

Males – 19,230[1]

[1] Provisional.

Statistics on personnel recruited into the UK Regular Armed Forces by gender in 2007-08 is available from the UK Defence Statistics (UKDS) 2008 Publication table 2.21, "Intake to untrained strength of UK Regular Forces by Service and sex", which can be found at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS2008/c2/table221.html

Bomb Disposal: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions an Army bomb disposal squad has been called out *(a)* to deal with devices and *(b)* to respond to hoax calls in each district of Northern Ireland in each of the last 24 months; [272859]

(2) how many injuries members of Army bomb disposal squads have sustained in Northern Ireland in the last 18 months; [272860]

(3) how many military personnel are deployed on bomb disposal duties in Northern Ireland. [272898]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 1 May 2009, 44 members of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Regiment were stationed in Northern Ireland. No EOD personnel have sustained injuries on duty in Northern Ireland in the last 18 months. The following table shows the number of times Army EOD personnel have been called out in Northern Ireland in the last 24 months.

	IED[1]/ Incendiary[2]/ Find[3] call outs	Hoax[4]/False[5] call outs	Total call outs
2007			
May	18	4	22
June	13	6	19
July	16	10	26
August	11	1	12
September	26	5	31
October	23	6	29
November	15	2	17
December	17	5	22
2008			
January	6	15	21
February	2	16	18
March	7	16	23
April	20	4	24
May	12	17	29
June	16	7	23
July	17	6	23
August	12	14	26
September	19	11	30
October	21	14	35
November	30	25	55
December	19	7	26
2009			
January	19	4	23
February	18	9	27
March	28	51	79
April	22	29	51

[1] IED—The report of EOD action which results in the total neutralisation, disruption or dismantling of an Improvised Explosive Device.
[2] Incendiary—The report of the functioning of an IED which is primarily designed to cause damage by burning.
[3] Find—The report of explosives or bomb-making components, weapons, ammunition or tools found by the police or security forces and confirmed by the EOD Operator after full investigation.
[4] Hoax—The report of an incident where, after full investigation, an object is discovered to be a simulated IED.
[5] False—A report made in good faith of an object believed to be an IED which, upon full investigation, proves to be innocuous.

The number of each call out type by district is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department spent on furniture in 2008-09 and *(b)* his Department's agencies spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273747]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2008-09 the Department spent £18.1 million on furniture. This includes not only office furniture but furniture for messes, barracks, service family accommodation and ships. Information specifically relating to MOD Agency spend in each of the last five years is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The £18.1 million figure excludes expenditure relating to PFI/PPP projects where the furniture is supplied by the industry partner and forms part of the overall project costs.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273779]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on branded goods must be necessary, appropriate, cost-effective and an admissible charge to public funds.

East Midlands University Officer Training Corps

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what conclusions his Department has reached following its investigation of alleged inappropriate and far-right extremist costumes worn by members of the East Midlands University Officer Training Corps. [272845]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An investigation was undertaken into the allegations of inappropriate costumes worn by members of the East Midlands University Officer Training Corps at a Unit Halloween party in October last year, to identify the facts of the incident and make recommendations to prevent similar occurrences.

The Ministry of Defence is satisfied that the individuals concerned have shown remorse and appropriate measures have been undertaken to ensure that all Officer Cadets at the establishment are made aware of standards regarding acceptable dress and behaviour at Unit functions.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from his Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273440]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Bases: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the security of UK army bases in Northern Ireland; [272957]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the future of UK military personnel based in Northern Ireland. [272967]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are regular Security Policy Meetings (SPM), chaired by Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, which discuss security arrangements in Northern Ireland, and the MOD are always represented. I recently visited Northern Ireland, where I had meetings with relevant security officials, and discussed the general security situation and more specifically the measures taken to protect the MOD bases and our people who will remain garrisoned there. I also met the Chief Constable.

We will continue the work to ensure that security of military bases and our people is as strong as possible while allowing our people to lead a normal life.

There have been no formal discussions between the Secretary of State for Defence and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, but they are regularly in touch and have many informal discussions.

RAF Cosford

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will put in place contingency plans for the use of RAF Cosford in the event that Operation Borona does not coincide with the vacating of RAF Cosford as part of the Defence Training Review Programme. [273412]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: RAF Cosford is currently the Ministry of Defence's preferred location for 1 Signal Brigade and 102 Logistics Brigade returning from Germany under Programme Borona. There are currently no detailed contingency plans for the use of RAF Cosford, should our requirements under Borona no longer match the availability of the site. However, as RAF Cosford is a well found site that has enduring military utility, it has been designated a 'Core Site' and the alternative opportunities it offers would be considered should the need arise.

Rescue Services: Procurement

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1024W, on rescue services, when he expects to announce the result of the competition for the provision of the harmonised UK search and rescue capability. [273587]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The PFI competition is being conducted in accordance with European Union procurement regulations using the Competitive Dialogue process to progressively refine the search and rescue helicopter (SAR-H) requirement and develop industry solutions. The result of the competition will be announced when an appropriately mature solution has been established.

Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with the Comptroller and Auditor General to seek to ensure public access to the National Audit Office's 1992 report on the Al Yamamah arms deal. [273106]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Secretary of State for Defence on 8 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1495W, to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone).

Swine Flu

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many courses of influenza chemoprophylaxis *(a)* are held and *(b)* have been ordered by the Defence Medical Services; [273427]

(2) which *(a)* members and *(b)* units of the armed forces would be provided with influenza chemoprophylaxis under the contingency plans of that service in relation to swine influenza; and in what circumstances such treatment would be given. [273429]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* Influenza chemoprophylaxis, in the form of antiviral drugs, would be provided to any service personnel who met the case definition of possible or probable cases of influenza A/H1N1 (swine variant), as defined by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), and close contacts of these cases.

All entitled patients in the UK will obtain antiviral treatment in accordance with Department of Health policy through local arrangements with primary care organisations. For entitled patients outside the UK for whom the DMS have responsibility, such as deployed personnel, overseas bases and RN ships afloat, around 22,000 courses of influenza antivirals (Oseltamivir) have been forward positioned, with a further 10,700 courses held by the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) for operational use as required including further supplies for Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. These stocks provide sufficient for each of the overseas bases to be allocated stock to cover 25 per cent. of the entitled population at risk (PAR). The Department of Health is being approached with an order for uplift to 50 per cent. PAR.

We are also currently replacing our existing stocks of Oseltamivir paediatric suspension, for the use of children under 13, to reflect new dosage recommendations. Around 1,100 new courses have been issued to overseas bases already, and the Department of Health is being approached to uplift to 50 per cent. PAR.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* masks and *(b)* pairs of gloves (i) are held and (ii) have been ordered by the Defence Medical Services for the purposes of preventing the spread of swine influenza. [273428]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The MOD follows Health Protection Agency (HPA) guidance in planning for an outbreak of pandemic influenza. In 2007, defence medical centres assessed their emergency requirements for infection control consumables, and around 275,000 masks and 150,000 pairs of gloves were distributed to centres in the UK and overseas bases. An additional three months' stock, calculated at three months' regular usage and amounting to around 8,000 masks and 48,000 pairs of gloves, is held by the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA), to provide stock for operations overseas and ships afloat. This stock is replenished as items are consumed. Overall, these remain sufficient for our predicted emergency requirements, calculated on the basis of HPA advice.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the reserve forces have in the contingency plans of the armed forces in relation to a swine influenza pandemic; and what mechanisms are in place to protect members of the reserve forces against infection with swine influenza. [273430]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The reserve forces contribute to overall military capability. They have been engaged in business continuity planning, but there is no specific task placed on the reserve forces in the MOD Pandemic Influenza Framework.

The mechanisms to protect members of the reserve forces are the same as for the general public—hygiene advice for all and antiviral drugs for possible cases and close contacts. Hygiene advice has been issued by the Department of Health but has also been promulgated through service communications. Unless members of the reserve forces are mobilised, they will be supplied with antiviral drugs, in accordance with Health Protection Agency and Department of Health guidance, through the primary care trust/organisation supply services in their home area. Their NHS GP will be responsible for providing primary care services.

The Defence Medical Services are responsible for primary care services for mobilised members of the reserve forces. For those serving in the UK, antiviral drugs will be obtained from primary care trust/organisation stocks in accordance with local arrangements set up for military patients. Those deployed overseas will be provided with antiviral drugs from military stocks. Those mobilised reservists requiring personal protective equipment, such as medical personnel, will be supplied with the requisite items through service supply.

HEALTH

Anabolic Steroids: Health Education

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to inform the public of the health risks of anabolic steroids; how much has been spent to that end in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [274327]

Dawn Primarolo: The FRANK campaign, jointly funded by the Department and the Home Office, has a website and helpline advisers to provide information on the risks associated with drug misuse. FRANK makes it clear that the misuse of steroids is dangerous and can lead to some potentially fatal medical problems. The harmful short and long-term effects of anabolic steroid use are also described in the Department's publication "Dangerousness of drugs" (2003).

It is not possible to provide spending figures on the cost of providing information on anabolic steroids specifically, because FRANK provides information on a wide range of drugs.

Asthma and Depression

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the population in England were diagnosed with *(a)* asthma and *(b)* clinical depression in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest 12 month period for which figures are available. [273306]

Ann Keen: Information relating to 1997 is not available. Health Service England (1996) reported the prevalence of doctor-diagnosed asthma as 21 per cent. of children and 12 per cent. of adults, or 14 per cent. overall. These figures indicated those who had been diagnosed with asthma at any time in their life, and do not necessarily indicate those with a current condition in 1996.

The latest national diagnosed prevalence of asthma relates to 2007-08 and is reported through the Quality and Outcomes Framework. These records show that approximately 5.7 per cent. of the population of England were reported as suffering from asthma.

Information on the incidence of clinical depression in England is not available in the requested format. There is no information available for 1997, only for 1993, 2000 and 2007, through the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Surveys. Information relating to those aged 65-74 only became available in 2000 and has therefore been excluded from the reply. In 1993, 2.2 per cent. of all adults in England aged 16-64 experienced a depressive episode, in 2000 2.8 per cent. and in 2007 2.6 per cent.

Care Homes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether local authorities are required to consult the residents of a local authority care home prior to sale of the home. [273696]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Care Quality Commission that the statement of purpose for each provider, including local authority-run care homes, requires the provider to consult with all service users about any change in service provision.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost of a care home resident to a local authority in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [273697]

Phil Hope: Information on personal social services expenditure weekly unit costs to councils with adult social services responsibilities for residential and nursing care by primary client group is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The following table shows the average cost per person per week to councils with adult social services responsibilities of a care home resident in England and Leicester by primary client group in 2007-08.

Primary client group	*England*	*£ Leicester*
Adults aged 65 and over	466	404
Adults aged 18 to 64 with learning disabilities	1,047	848
Adults aged 18 to 64 with mental health needs	613	581
Adults aged 18 to 64 with physical disabilities	750	880

Source:
PSS EX1 return, NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average residence charge to a care home resident in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [273698]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected by the Department. However, according to the "Care of Elderly People, UK Market Survey 2008" published by the independent health care analysts, Laing & Buisson, the average weekly fees in for-profit care homes in England, as at 31 March 2008, were:

£

Type of care	Single room	Shared room
Care with nursing	691	584
Residential care only	474	416

Care Homes: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent guidance issued by his Department on infection control in care homes; [271809]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to care homes on recording cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile occurring amongst their patients; and to whom care homes are expected to make notification of such occurrences. [271811]

Phil Hope: The guidance, "Infection Control Guidance for Care Homes", issued in June 2006, is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4136381

A copy has been placed in the Library.

The Care Homes Regulations 2001—Regulation 37 (1b)—require homes to notify the regulator, the Care Quality Commission, without delay of the outbreak of any infectious disease which in the opinion of any registered medical practitioner attending persons in the care home is sufficiently serious to be so notified. Notification must be confirmed in writing.

Schedule 4(10)—Regulation 17(2)—requires homes to record any incident which is detrimental to the health or welfare of a service user, including the outbreak of infectious disease in the care home and any injury or illness.

Care Homes: Manpower

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1093-4W, on care homes: manpower, when he expects the review of evidence to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [269049]

Phil Hope: The Department has been working closely with the Migration Advisory Committee to provide evidence on manpower in the adult social care sector.

The committee has now made its recommendations to the Government in its report 'Skilled, Shortage, Sensible: First review of the recommended shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland: Spring 2009', published on 29 April 2009. The Government's response will be published soon.

Chiropody: Elderly

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve foot care for the elderly. [273629]

Phil Hope: The forthcoming prevention package for older people will include a renewed focus on best practice for foot care services.

Cholesterol: Drugs

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the clinical effectiveness of polypills combining statins for cholesterol reduction with low doses of other safe and effective medicines that reduce blood pressure. [R] [273359]

Ann Keen: The Department has met the original Polypill authors on a number of occasions. The initial conclusions were that this type of approach would be more suitable in developing countries rather than in more sophisticated health care systems such as ours where tailored therapy is more the norm.

The Department is currently exploring how to reassess this issue in the light of fresh interest in the topic.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273556]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Greening Government Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy sets a target for central Government Departments to become carbon neutral in ICT operations by 2012. In response to this target, the Department produced an action plan in December 2008 that details a series of projects and initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions by 40 per cent. against the 2008 baseline. The targets to reduce carbon emissions by 40 per cent. and to achieve carbon neutrality in ICT operations by 2012 are included within the Department's Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) for the period 2009-11. Progress against the targets will be monitored as part of governance of the Greening ICT Action Plan and the SDAP.

The Greening Government ICT Strategy recommends completion of 18 Quick Win initiatives for CO_2 emission reduction. Nine of the Quick Win initiatives have been completed with progress at various stages against the remainder within the 2009-11 Action Plan.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to Table C11 of the Budget Report 2009, for what reason his Department *(a)* spent £1.5 billion less on its resource budget for 2008-09 and *(b)* spent £0.1 billion less on its capital budget than the planned expenditure set out in the 2008 pre-Budget report; and whether these sums will be available for spending in future years. [273624]

Mr. Bradshaw: The difference is due to the different presentation of the numbers. The pre-Budget report published expenditure figures on the basis of funding available to the national health service. Budget 2009 published forecast outturn expenditure for 2008-09. Therefore, the difference in figures is the estimated NHS underspend.

The Department's end year flexibility stock is published each year in July in the Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper. The Department's access to this stock is subject to normal Treasury scrutiny on the basis of need and realism, and the wider fiscal position.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assumptions NHS organisations are using to plan spending in years after 2010-11. [273633]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2009-10 and 2010-11, the remaining years of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, were announced in December 2008. The allocations represent a £164 billion investment in the national health service, £80 billion in 2009-10 and £84 billion in 2010-11. PCTs will receive an average increase in funding of 11.3 per cent. over the two years, a total increase of £8.6 billion. The announcement gives the NHS planning certainty over the next two years.

The Department does not publish financial planning assumptions outside the current spending review period.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273783]

Mr. Bradshaw: The required information is not held centrally and can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from his Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273439]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect data on food waste.

Fractures: Elderly

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that mechanisms for primary care trust commissioning provide co-ordinated strategies for the treatment of older people who have fallen and fractures in each local area in England; [273667]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that clinical services in England adhere to treatments to prevent falls and fractures incurred by older people recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [273668]

Phil Hope: The forthcoming prevention package for older people will include a focus on best practice for commissioning falls prevention and care for people with fractures and will highlight the importance of existing guidance set out by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). However, it is for local organisations to demonstrate to the appropriate independent inspectorate that they are meeting their responsibilities with regard to the guidance from NICE.

Fractures: Health Services

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts in England ensure that the further assessment and management of fracture patients is co-ordinated by a fracture liaison nurse or a similar designated person. [273123]

Ann Keen: Information on how national health service primary care trusts organise and deliver services to meet the needs of those with fractures is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Bank Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department has taken to support charities providing NHS services who had deposited funds in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander bank; and if he will make a statement. [272543]

Mr. Bradshaw: The investment of funds by charities providing national health service services are regulated by the Charities Commission and as such follow the governance framework as set out by the Commission. Therefore, charities providing NHS services are outside the scope of the financial regime that is performance managed by the Department.

The Government have taken action to work with the Icelandic authorities and through the International Monetary Fund to ensure fair treatment for all United Kingdom creditors. We have been clear that we will fully support charities in pursuit of any claims through administration.

Health Visitors: Children

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the ratio of children to health visitors in each primary care trust in England. [271747]

Ann Keen: This information is in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors per 10,000 children[1] in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September 2008

		Number
England		25
North East Strategic Health Authority area		33
County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT)	5ND	3
Darlington PCT	5J9	191
Gateshead PCT	5KF	30
Hartlepool PCT	5D9	18
Newcastle PCT	5D7	37
North Tees PCT	5E1	25
North Tyneside PCT	5D8	35
Northumberland Care Trust	TAC	20
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	5QR	50
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	43
Sunderland Teaching PCT	5KL	32
North West Strategic Health Authority area		31
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5HG	40
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	5CC	37
Blackpool PCT	5HP	58
Bolton PCT	5HQ	31
Bury PCT	5JX	33
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5NP	23

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors per 10,000 children[1] in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September 2008

		Number
Central Lancashire PCT	5NG	27
Cumbria PCT	5NE	30
East Lancashire PCT	5NH	29
Halton and St. Helens PCT	5NM	27
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	5NQ	39
Knowsley PCT	5J4	42
Liverpool PCT	5NL	31
Manchester PCT	5NT	28
North Lancashire PCT	5NF	40
Oldham PCT	5J5	22
Salford PCT	5F5	21
Sefton PCT	5NJ	28
Stockport PCT	5F7	29
Tameside and Glossop PCT	5LH	30
Trafford PCT	5NR	25
Warrington PCT	5J2	28
West Cheshire PCT	5NN	34
Wirral PCT	5NK	31
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area		28
Barnsley PCT	5JE	32
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	5NY	26
Calderdale PCT	5J6	33
Doncaster PCT	5N5	37
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	5NW	27
Hull Teaching PCT	5NX	34
Kirklees PCT	5N2	21
Leeds PCT	5N1	26
North East Lincolnshire Care trust	TAN	32
North Lincolnshire PCT	5EF	28
North Yorkshire and York PCT	5NV	22
Rotherham PCT	5H8	29
Sheffield PCT	5N4	26
Wakefield District PCT	5N3	34
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area		24
Bassetlaw PCT	5ET	22
Derby City PCT	5N7	27
Derbyshire County PCT	5N6	30
Leicester City Teaching PCT	5PC	22
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	5PA	17
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N9	27
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	19
Nottingham City PCT	5EM	35
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	5N8	20
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area		25
Birmingham East and North PCT	5PG	19
Coventry Teaching PCT	5MD	15
Dudley PCT	5PE	28
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5MX	23
Herefordshire PCT	5CN	19
North Staffordshire PCT	5PH	30
Sandwell PCT	5PF	27
Shropshire County PCT	5M2	25
Solihull Care Trust	TAM	33
South Birmingham PCT	5M1	24
South Staffordshire PCT	5PK	27
Stoke-on Trent Teaching PCT	5PJ	37
Telford and Wrekin PCT	5MK	28
Walsall Teaching PCT	5M3	24
Warwickshire PCT	5PM	22
Wolverhampton City PCT	5MV	27
Worcestershire PCT	5FL	29
East of England Strategic Health Authority area		21
Bedfordshire PCT	5P2	23
Cambridgeshire PCT	5PP	11
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	5P3	21
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	5PR	27
Luton PCT	5GC	20
Mid Essex PCT	5PX	17
Norfolk PCT	5PQ	24
North East Essex PCT	5PW	19
Peterborough PCT	5PN	26
South East Essex PCT	5P1	25
South West Essex Teaching PCT	5PY	25
Suffolk PCT	5PT	21
West Essex PCT	5PV	20
West Hertfordshire PCT	5P4	20
London Strategic Health Authority area		21
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	12
Barnet PCT	5A9	9
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	27
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	16
Bromley PCT	5A7	26
Camden PCT	5K7	18
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	21
Croydon PCT	5K9	20
Ealing PCT	5HX	22
Enfield PCT	5C1	16
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	22
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	44
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	2
Harrow PCT	5K6	18
Havering PCT	5A4	20
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	20
Hounslow PCT	5HY	16
Islington PCT	5K8	21
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	23
Kingston PCT	5A5	17
Lambeth PCT	5LD	17
Lewisham PCT	5LF	31
Newham PCT	5C5	12
Redbridge PCT	5NA	17
Richmond and Twickenham	5M6	20
Southwark PCT	5LE	39
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	25
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	23
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	20
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	22
Westminster PCT	5LC	34

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors per 10,000 children[1] in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September 2008

		Number
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area		21
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5P7	25
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	5QA	24
Hastings and Rother PCT	5P8	31
Medway PCT	5L3	25
Surrey PCT	5P5	15
West Kent PCT	5P9	15
West Sussex Teaching PCT	5P6	17
South Central Strategic Health Authority area		20
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	5QG	18
Berkshire West PCT	5QF	20
Buckinghamshire PCT	5QD	22
Hampshire PCT	5QC	15
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	5QT	21
Milton Keynes PCT	5CQ	26
Oxfordshire PCT	5QE	25
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5FE	24
Southampton City PCT	5L1	17
South West Strategic Health Authority area		26
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5FL	29
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	5QN	31
Bristol Teaching PCT	5QJ	32
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5QP	29
Devon PCT	5QQ	21
Dorset PCT	5QM	28
Gloucestershire PCT	5QH	27
North Somerset PCT	5M8	23
Plymouth Teaching PCT	5F1	28
Somerset PCT	5QL	23
South Gloucestershire PCT	5A3	22
Swindon PCT	5K3	19
Torbay Care Trust	TAL	27
Wiltshire PCT	5QK	21

[1] Children are defined as those aged 0-5 years.

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Strategic health authority area totals include a small number of staff employed by NHS trusts including, for example, health visitors employed by Great Ormond Street and working in Haringey.
3. The low figure for County Durham and extremely high figure for Darlington are an anomaly caused by the fact that County Durham commissions services for both County Durham and Darlington and in the case of community health services, these are provided for both PCTs by Darlington.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
Primary Care Organisations Mid Year 2007 Population Estimates, 2001 Population Census Based. Office for National Statistics Population Estimates.

Maternity Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 234W, on maternity services, which of the maternity units listed on the NHS Choices website are *(a)* consultant-led and *(b)* midwife-led. [273048]

Alan Keen: We do not routinely collect details of maternity services led by consultants or midwives. However, the Dr. Foster website has a tool where it is possible to search for details of maternity services that are either consultant or midwife led. The search can be further defined by birth unit or by postcode. The web address for this tool is:

www.drfosterhealth.co.uk

Medical Records: Databases

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to guarantee access to general practice services for patients who wish to opt out of having their clinical information uploaded to the national database under the National Programme for IT. [274604]

Mr. Bradshaw: The right of access to general practitioner services is not conditional on patients agreeing to have their clinical information uploaded to the national database. Patients who opt out by choosing not to have a summary care record are advised to make their wishes known to their general practice. Guidance has been issued to all general practices on how they should respond to patients' enquiries about their options in relation to summary care records, including ensuring that patients fully understand the implications of their decision.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Minister of State for Public Health plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 13 February 2009, on measles and mumps infections in the UK. [274435]

Dawn Primarolo: A reply was issued to the hon. Member on 3 March 2009.

NHS: Death Rate

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 900W, on NHS: death rate, which NHS organisations were the subject of alerts in the first year; what the reason for each alert was; what steps were taken in response to the alert; and what the reasons for the alert were determined to be. [269080]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Care Quality Commission (CQC), which took over from the Healthcare Commission (HCC) on 1 April 2009, has informed us that the reasons for the 85 alerts were because data received by HCC suggested that the rates of mortality in relation to a number of specific clinical areas were statistically higher than otherwise would have been expected. Statistical alerts relating to mortality rates do not necessarily equate to problems with clinical care. The alerts could be caused as a result of poor data quality, chance events, differences in the complexity of conditions treated or there could be evidence of poor quality care.

The HCC's report 'Following up mortality "outliers"' summarised the reasons for the alerts and the steps taken in response to the alerts. The report is published at:

www.cqc.org.uk/_db/_documents/Following_up_mortality_outliers_200903244704.pdf

Details regarding the reasons for the first 85 alerts by patient group and outcome are contained in the following table.

Number of alerts by patient group and outcome (first 85 cases up to July 2008)

Patient group	Resolved by Healthcare Commission	Followed up	Total
Acute myocardial infarction	0	1	1
Aortic, peripheral, and visceral artery aneurysms	1	2	3
Asthma	1	0	1
CABG (complex, combined and repeat)	2	0	2
CABG (isolated, first time)	1	0	1
Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation	0	2	2
Cardiac pacemaker system introduced through vein	2	1	3
Chronic ulcer of skin	1	2	3
Complication of device, implant or graft	3	1	4
Complications of surgical procedures or medical care	3	0	3
Coronary atherosclerosis and other heart disease	1	3	4
Diabetes	0	1	1
Diabetes mellitus with complications	1	0	1
Elective cases (various groups)	0	1	1
Epilepsy, convulsions	1	1	2
Excision of lung	1	0	1
Fracture of neck of femur (hip)	0	2	2
Heart valve disorders	1	2	3
Intestinal obstruction without hernia	3	1	4
Intracranial injury	0	1	1
Intracranial procedures except trauma—category 3	2	0	2
Non-transient stroke or cerebrovascular accident, aged over 69 years or with complications or co-morbidities	1	1	2
Operations on jejunum	0	1	1
Other circulatory disease	0	1	1
Other fractures	2	0	2
Other liver diseases	0	1	1
Other psychoses	1	0	1
Other upper respiratory disease	1	0	1
Perinatal mortality	1	3	4
Peritonitis and intestinal abscess	0	1	1
Pleurisy, pneumothorax, pulmonary collapse	0	2	2
Repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm	2	1	3
Septicaemia (except in labour)	3	6	9
Soft tissue disorders, aged over 69 years or with complications or co-morbidities	1	1	2
Spondylosis, intervertebral disc disorders, other back problems	1	0	1
Therapeutic endoscopic procedures on biliary tract	2	0	2
Therapeutic endoscopic procedures on lower GI tract	1	0	1
Urinary tract infections	3	3	6
All patient groups	43	42	85

As regards the steps taken, for each alert further statistical analysis was undertaken, which was considered with any other relevant information that was known (such as local intelligence from local field staff in the Commission and clinical advice where necessary). The results of this work are in the published report.

One of CQC's first pieces of work is to review the alerts programme. As part of this review, CQC will decide whether it can release the names of the organisations that were subject to these alerts. A decision on this matter is imminent.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the deployment of Lorenzo and Cerner Millennium in each early adopter site for the National Programme for IT. [272544]

Mr. Bradshaw: Lorenzo release 1.0 provides functionality for clinical documentation, and requests and results. Of the three Lorenzo release 1.0 early adopter sites, the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS trust is currently using the radiology requests and results functionality in its general surgery and urology wards, and has begun making plans for its use for inpatient, outpatient, and accident and emergency discharge summaries. South Birmingham Primary Care Trust (PCT) has a number of podiatrists using the system, working in eight different physical locations in the PCT. Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust went live for radiology results and requests in a nurse-led orthopaedic clinic at the end of March 2009.

In London, three acute trusts, Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, Queen Mary's Sidcup and Barts and The London NHS Trusts, are live with the first phase of the Cerner Millennium system. In June 2008 the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust went live with the next phase Cerner Millennium which features a link to the NHS spine. The trust uses the system to manage patient admission, transfer and discharge details and is linked to accident and emergency, theatre scheduling, maternity, therapies, as well as electronic radiology and pathology test ordering and reporting.

In October 2008, following a review of the progress of the deployment of the Cerner Millennium system, an improvement programme was set up to concentrate on resolving the issues that were being experienced by the live trusts. At the Barts and The London NHS Trust some unresolved issues are being tackled as part of a wider comprehensive improvement programme that is addressing identified weaknesses in the trust's information management and administration systems. At the other three trusts improvement programmes have been substantially delivered.

Due to the good progress made with the improvement programmes and greater confidence in the functionality and stability of the system, the London Acute Programme Board recommended in January 2009 that the implementation of Cerner Millennium should continue in London.

In the south, eight health communities have to date gone live with the Cerner Millennium system. Each health community typically comprises an acute trust and the associated primary care trust sites in its area. The acute trusts are Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS trust; Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS trust; Weston Area Health NHS trust; Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation trust; Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre

NHS trust; Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS trust; Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS trust; and Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS trust.

Since the local service provider contract with Fujitsu was terminated in May 2008, new arrangements to support and develop the services in the eight live sites in the south, together with agreement to deploy the Cerner product to a further four acute organisations have been agreed with BT. Under these arrangements, the eight live sites in the south will first be transferred to a BT data centre and then upgraded to the post-improvement programme configuration of the electronic patient record software that has been developed for London Cerner trusts. The transfer to the BT data centres and the subsequent upgrade of software are expected to be completed for the live sites by the end of 2010.

Further planned Cerner Millennium implementations at trusts in both London and the south are being informed by the lessons learnt from the improvement programmes at the live sites, and will enable more localisation and tailoring of the system, as well as close working between clinicians and solution experts as the system is being built for each trust.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate his Department's expenditure on its toolkit for the National Programme for IT; and whether capital for this expenditure will be allocated from the original budget for the programme. [272801]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not yet possible to make a meaningful estimate of all the costs involved. However, we anticipate that they will be met from within existing budgetary provision for the national programme.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many sites in the Southern cluster of the National Programme for IT are *(a)* due to deploy and *(b)* in the process of deploying (i) the RiO information system and (ii) Cerner Millennium under the management of BT; [272806]

(2) for how many *(a)* trusts and *(b)* sites in the Southern cluster of the National Programme for IT BT has now assumed responsibility. [272807]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the southern programme for information technology, previously the southern cluster, the eight acute trusts that had previously installed Cerner Millennium under Fujitsu as local service provider are transferring to BT. In addition, four more acute trusts are planning to deploy the system, three of which are in the early stages of deployment. In all, these deployments will cover 26 sites.

Under the same arrangement, 22 community and mental health trusts are due to deploy the RiO system at 25 sites, including one trust which has already started work on deployment.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether provision of the regional distribution centre to provide a loan equipment delivery service for complex equipment as part of the transforming community equipment programme will be subject to a competitive tender should the centre be established. [274165]

Phil Hope: Local authorities and their health partners who may consider commissioning a regional solution for complex equipment are required to comply with all relevant European Union procurement legislation.

Physiology

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to consult on proposals for the regulation of clinical physiologists. [273274]

Mr. Bradshaw: We intend to develop proposals for the regulation of the health care scientist work force, including clinical physiologists, this year.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 12 May 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent discussions the Church Commissioners have had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on heritage grant funding for church repairs. [274612]

Sir Stuart Bell: Representatives of the Church of England have regularly met with a number of Government Departments, namely HM Treasury, DCLG, DEFRA, Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office and DCMS.

These discussions have culminated in the joint publication of guidance entitled 'Churches and Faith Buildings: Realising the Potential'. The guidance seeks to help faith groups access existing resources and help funders understand the important role of faith groups in delivering public services. Specifically, it identifies funding for the physical alteration and modification of churches and other faith buildings to ensure they are fit for community use.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Hamas

Mr. Ames: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the organisers of the meeting held on the Parliamentary estate on 22 April 2009 involving a video link with a senior leader of Hamas sought the approval of the House of Commons Commission beforehand; what representations the Commission received from hon. Members opposing the video link from taking place; what response the Commission gave; and if he will make a statement. [274025]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission has no role in approving Members' choice of participants in video-linked meetings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273563]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has a Green ICT strategy in place, derived from the Cabinet Office "Greening Government ICT" strategy. The Northern Ireland Office Board is committed to implementing the strategy's 51 recommendations, where practicable. To date, 29 recommendations have already been addressed or are under active consideration, including a commitment that new ICT equipment will comply with at least one of the green energy standards. This is now incorporated into all centralised procurement framework agreements.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England awarded in grants in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [273983]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* Arts Council England has advised that the following has been awarded in grants in 2007-08. Figures for 2008-09 are currently being prepared and are not yet available.

	£
Grant in aid 2007-08	
Regularly Funded Organisations	314,916,000
Grants for the Arts-Individuals	9,729,000
Strategic Funding and Activities (Managed Funds)	16,273,000
Creative Partnerships	17,461,000
Other restricted funds	16,482,000
Lapsed and revoked commitments	-1,151,000
Total grant in aid funding grants	373,710,000
Lottery funding 2007-08	
Grant commitments made in the year	99,551,000
Lapsed and revoked commitments	-8,655,000
Total lottery funding	90,896,000
Total grant funding	464,606,000

Casinos

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed casinos were in operation in each local authority area under the provisions of *(a)* the Gambling Act 1968 and *(b)* the Gambling Act 2005 in each year since 1997. [274083]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission have advised that to date there have been no premises licences issued under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in relation to casinos.

The Gambling Act1968 has seen casinos located in 53 distinct 'permitted areas' in which the licensing of clubs for gaming other than bingo is permitted.

Details of the number of casinos operating in each permitted area for each year can be found in the annual reports of the Gambling Commission and its predecessor,

the Gaming Board. Copies of these reports are laid in the Library and are also available on the Gambling Commission's website at:

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274451]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not outsourced any new services within the last five years. A number of services have been outsourced prior to this period such as:

Facilities Management,
Information Technology,
Catering Services,
Records Management, and
Mailroom Services.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff in his Department and its agency were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274301]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows.

	Underperformance		*Total dismissals*	
	DCMS	*Royal Parks Agency*	*DCMS*	*Royal Parks Agency*
1999	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	0	1	0	1
2002	0	1	0	1
2003	0	0	0	1
2004	0	1	0	1
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	1	0
2009	0	0	1	0
Total	0	3	2	4

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273561]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department, in line with all other Chief Information Officers (CIOs) on the CIO Council, has produced a "CIO Green ICT Roadmap" which we will be following to deliver against the 18 target improvement areas outlined in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

My Department has identified Green ICT as one of our key priorities for the coming year. As part of this, we have led a cross-Government exercise to procure a standard tool to allow departments to safely shut down desktop PCs overnight and out of hours. This software has now been installed on all machines in my Department to ensure that all unused machines are shut down outside working hours.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274489]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS do not offer work placements to school pupils. However, DCMS has taken part in the Cabinet Office Summer Work Placement scheme for university students and graduates from under-represented groups. In the last five years we have taken five placements per year.

English Heritage: Educational Visits

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the *(a)* administration, *(b)* staffing and *(c)* advertisement and promotion of the English Heritage free educational visits scheme in each year since the introduction of the scheme. [272321]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* English Heritage introduced free entry for educational groups to its sites as one of its first acts after its creation in 1984. However, the figures requested are only available for the years from 1996-97 and these represent the total spend on education in each year. It is not possible to separate out how much is spent on free educational visits alone, or to break down the total as requested. The available figures are set out in the following table:

£

		Of which:	
	Total expenditure on education	*Payroll*	*Marketing and promotion*
1996-97	1,083,870	342,575	265,802
1997-98	961,479	265,498	491,661
1998-99	814,314	274,472	422,639
1999-2000	972,013	361,021	580,461
2000-01	1,059,290	408,818	509,290
2001-02	1,101,696	436,462	659,799
2002-03	1,182,071	556,628	597,433
2003-04	1,416,248	659,582	546,356
2004-05	1,335,050	695,672	487,447
2005-06	1,445,448	630,006	213,539
2006-07	1,503,366	649,604	390,713
2007-08	1,429,012	698,122	475,614
2008-09	1,466,873	727,583	335,125

Funding

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much funding the Community Fund has *(a)* committed and *(b)* distributed since its creation; [273982]

(2) how much funding the Big Lottery Fund has *(a)* committed and *(b)* distributed since its creation. [273984]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* The Big Lottery Fund has advised that from 1 December 2006, when it was legally created from the merger of the Community Fund, New Opportunities Fund and Millennium Commission it has awarded £1,898 million and distributed £1,433 million to grant recipients.

The distribution includes outstanding payments to Community Fund, New Opportunities Fund and Millennium Commission grant holders.

In the period from the Community Fund's inception in 1993 until 30 November 2006, it awarded £3,863 million and distributed £2,926 million to grant recipients.

The Community Fund's first grants were awarded in October 1995, following their legal creation in 1993. Many Community Fund projects are still in management and delivering benefits to communities. They therefore are still drawing money down from their grant allocation.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of people being treated for gambling addiction. [273288]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not centrally collate statistics on the number of people being treated for gambling addiction at any one time.

In 2008 the Responsibility in Gambling Trust (RIGT) estimated that of the 0.6 per cent. of the adult population categorised as problem gamblers, 0.5 per cent. were accessing treatment from RIGT funded treatment providers, on an annual basis.

The Gambling Commission is currently considering whether to include specific questions on the awareness of treatment services in the next British Gambling Prevalence Survey which will be published in 2010.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of online gambling companies based overseas which operate in the UK which *(a)* contribute and *(b)* do not contribute to funding of problem gambling services; and if he will make a statement. [273653]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* My Department does not collect statistics on the number of overseas based operators contributing to the funding of problem gambling services in the UK.

However, we are aware that some operators based in Alderney, Gibraltar and Malta contributed on a voluntary basis to the Responsibility in Gambling Trust last year.

Additionally, a number of companies licensed for premises-based operations in the UK contribute significantly towards research, education and treatment of problem gambling in the UK and have remote gambling operations that are based in European Union or white listed jurisdictions.

Heritage and Culture Sector Club: VisitBritain

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what functions the Heritage and Culture Sector Club has in relation to VisitBritain. [270815]

Barbara Follett: The Heritage and Culture Sector Club provides VisitBritain with a forum to disseminate important consumer and market intelligence in order to encourage appropriate product development in heritage and culture specific areas.

This work informs VisitBritain's marketing campaigns and encourages the spread of best practice within the tourism industry.

Internet: English Language

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress has been made on the proposal to establish international rules for the operation of English language websites; and what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on the matter. [273291]

Barbara Follett: I remain keen to discuss an international approach to areas of public concern about certain internet content and look forward to engaging with the appropriate member of the US Administration once the relevant appointment has been made.

Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent research his Department has commissioned to assess the effectiveness of the operation of premises licences. [273652]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* While specific research has not been commissioned on this matter, the Government continue to monitor the effect of the Licensing Act 2003. On 4 March 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made a written ministerial statement on the evaluation of the impact of the 2003 Act, which can be read at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/minister_speeches/1997.aspx

Copies of the written ministerial statement are also available in the House Library.

Local Press

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will commission research into the *(a)* financial viability of local newspapers and *(b)* number of journalists employed by local newspapers in each of the last five years. [274238]

Andy Burnham: There are no plans by Government to commission this research. However, on 28 April I hosted a local media summit involving key figures from across the media industry to discuss the challenges facing local newspapers and explore how we can support the local media industry in meeting these challenges so that it can continue to thrive in the future. These discussions will feed into the final Digital Britain report to be published by the Government in the summer.

Sports Equity Alliance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Sport England and *(c)* UK Sport has

provided to each member of Sport England's Sports Equity Alliance in each of the last five years; and how much each has allocated to each member of the Alliance in the next expenditure round. [272942]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not fund Sport England's Sports Equity Alliance directly. Funding is channelled through Sport England and UK Sport.

Sport England has advised that its core revenue funding to Equity Partners over the last five years is as follows:

£

	English Federation of Disability Sport	Sporting Equals	Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation
2004-05	1,050,000	140,000	200,000
2005-06	1,050,000	140,000	200,000
2006-07	1,010,333	319,334	462,333
2007-08	951,066	317,066	419,898
2008-09	1,100,000	376,419	541,250
2009-10 (first quarter)[1]	275,000	81,604	135,125

[1] Funding has been awarded for the first quarter only of 2009-10 pending consideration by Sport England of applications from the equity partners that detail how they propose working to support National Governing Bodies and other sport deliverers in the period 2009-11.

UK Sport has advised that it has provided the following funding to each member of Sport England's Sports Equity Alliance over the past five years:

Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation (formerly the Women's Sports Foundation)

	Funding from UK Sport (£)
2004-05	8,659.50
2005-06	8,641.35
2006-07	8,800.25
2007-08	376
2008-09	229.13

Sporting Equals

	Funding from UK Sport (£)
2004-05	356.67
2005-06	98.56
2006-07	2,553.65
2007-08	2,749.38
2008-09	4,020

English Federation of Disability Sport

	Funding from UK Sport (£)
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	0

Sports: Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many voluntary community sports coaches have been recruited under the Recruit into Coaching scheme since its inception. [273802]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* Sport England have advised that 2,389 voluntary community sports coaches have been recruited under the Recruit into Coaching scheme since its inception.

Swimming Pools

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public swimming pools *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in England in 2008. [274730]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England advise that the figures for 2008 have not yet been collated, but should be available in the summer.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 22W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional annual value of such provision is. [271937]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department have one full-time trade union representative. The Department provide a desk, computer and telephone in the open plan office area. The trade union representative also has access to other shared office facilities such as meeting rooms, photocopying, scanning and faxing.

The cost per annum of providing accommodation and office facilities per full time equivalent is £11,939.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an estimate of the effect on *(a)* the British economy and *(b)* Exchequer revenues which would arise from an increase in (i) £10 million, (ii) £20 million and (iii) £50 million to the planned VisitBritain budget in each of the next five years. [272532]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain's grant in aid for the period 2011 to 2014 will be considered in due course. An increase of £10 million or £20 million over and above their current baseline funding would be deployed on above the line marketing activity. VisitBritain and Visit England would also seek to achieve 50 per cent. match funding from industry partners in line with such increases.

The additional visitor spend and tax revenue generated by such investment would significantly depend on the economic situation during the next five years and its impact on global airline traffic. VisitBritain and Visit England would currently expect to spend an increase of £50 million in each of the next five years not only on above the line marketing activity, but also on brand building and the development of new markets.

Again, the benefits would be influenced by economic developments in the wider economy. More detailed analysis and a larger planning exercise would be required to calculate the benefits over this period. In preparing for the next Spending Round, the Department will consider with VisitBritain a range of scenarios examining the economic impact of each.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of air quality in the Torbay local authority area; and what steps the Government are taking to improve air quality in the area. [272529]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Local authorities have a duty under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 to review and assess the current, and likely future, air quality in their areas, and to submit reports on local air quality to DEFRA.

Where local authorities consider that one or more nationally prescribed air quality objectives is unlikely to be met by the relevant deadline, they must declare an air quality management area (AQMA) covering the area affected. These local authorities must then take action, along with other agencies and organisations, to work towards meeting the air quality objectives. Torbay council declared AQMAs in respect of nitrogen dioxide objectives in April 2005 and May 2006. The council has produced an action plan setting out the measures it is implementing in order to improve air quality in the area. Since local road transport is the primary cause of local air pollution in these AQMAs, Torbay council has integrated its air quality action plan into the Torbay Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, a copy of which is available at:

www.torbay.gov.uk

DEFRA has assessed, and is satisfied with Torbay council's 2008 progress report, and we await the council's air quality report for 2009.

The Government provide guidance and practical support to assist local authorities with their duties on review and assessment of air quality, and to ensure consistency and best practice. Revised and updated guidance was published in February on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk

The Government also fund several helplines which local authorities can contact for practical and technical advice on monitoring, modelling, emission inventories and air quality action plan measures. All local authorities are invited each year to bid for air quality grant aid, and applications are considered and awards made towards the cost of air quality projects in local areas.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce which areas have been chosen for the bovine tuberculosis wildlife vaccination pilot. [273462]

Jane Kennedy: We have been working in liaison with the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England, epidemiologists and other key industry and stakeholder groups to identify criteria for selecting the areas where the bovine TB badger vaccine deployment project will take place. We anticipate the areas will be announced shortly.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the veterinary profession and its representatives on *(a)* the Government's strategy for dealing with bovine tuberculosis and *(b)* means of communicating that strategy through the work of veterinary surgeons. [273463]

Jane Kennedy: The Bovine TB Eradication Group includes representatives from DEFRA's Food and Farming Group, Animal Health, the farming industry and the veterinary profession.

In addition, the TB Advisory Group, which played a key role in obtaining stakeholder buy-in to TB control policies, also included representatives from the veterinary profession. The group disbanded on 8 April after publishing its final report to Ministers.

As part of planning for the badger vaccine deployment project, we have recently met with representatives of key veterinary organisations to discuss both their input into the project and the best ways of communicating to and through local vets.

Also on a recent visit to the south-west I met local animal health vets and affected farmers to learn of the growing TB problem and the challenge of tackling the disease.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to tackle testing fatigue among *(a)* farmers and *(b)* veterinary surgeons in relation to testing for bovine tuberculosis. [273464]

Jane Kennedy: I am aware from discussions with representatives from the farming industry and veterinary profession, and the recent report from our TB Advisory Group, that testing fatigue can become an issue in areas with high numbers of TB breakdowns. We are considering the report in detail.

The TB Eradication Group for England (TBEG) was set up last year to consider, and advise on, the TB control framework, including the cattle testing programme. Part of their remit is to look at options for helping farmers in high incidence areas maintain viable businesses, which may include options for managing the impact of TB controls on the farming industry and the veterinary profession.

Regular skin testing of cattle herds is an important part of our TB programme, both for tackling disease in cattle and ensuring the risk to public health remains low. Regular TB testing is also legally required if herd owners wish to retain their officially tuberculosis free (OTF) status and their ability to trade.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been prosecuted under sections 1(3), 3(1) and 3(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [272367]

Jane Kennedy: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under sections 1(3), 3(1) and 3(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales for the years 2006-07 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Statute	Offence description	2006	2007
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog.	8	87
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person.	703	667
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused.	278	341
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person.	54	50
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non- public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person.	19	22
Total		1,062	1,167

1. These data are on the principal offence basis.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.
Our Ref: IOS 239-09 (Table).

Tourism: Rural Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 381W, on tourism: rural areas, how much of the £35 million was devolved to each of the regional development agencies. [274944]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Each regional development agency (RDA) has been provided with an indicative budget for the entire programming period (2007-13) to enable them to deliver the full range of regional priorities. The figure of £35 million is an indicative allocation to the programme measure that provides for support for rural tourism. It is for each RDA to determine the actual level of spend and this will be influenced by a range of factors, including the number and quality of projects coming forward and changes to regional priorities agreed during the programming period.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 439W, on trade unions, which trade unions his Department's agencies recognise. [271930]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department's agencies recognise PCS, Prospect and FDA trade unions, all of which are members of the Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU).

Water Charges

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Ofwat undertook an impact assessment of the implementation of its proposals for water rate structures on community groups and churches. [271952]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2003 Ofwat reported the outcome of its review of company charging polices for surface water drainage. It concluded that site area charging was the fairest method of charging non-households for surface water drainage.

Ofwat said at the time that companies which are thinking about implementing site area charging would need to consider the impact on individual customers' bills and the potential negative effects associated with charging for sensitive properties. Ofwat also highlighted that companies would need to take into account the scale and speed of any bill changes to see if they were reasonable and acceptable to customers.

It is for the companies to undertake the appropriate impact assessments of any changes in their charging policies on their customers.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations entered into force. [272134]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has spent a total of £32,925.20 on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2007/991).

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 477W, on departmental carbon emissions, what the figures for *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul air travel for 2007-08 are. [271934]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport's contribution to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund for 2007-08 was based on the following mileage: *(a)* domestic 694,279 miles, *(b)* short-haul 821,645 miles, and *(c)* long-haul 1,940,261 miles.

Departmental Capital Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on departmental capital expenditure, what progress his Department has made in allocating the £700 million capital spending advanced to 2009-10. [274185]

Mr. Hoon: Pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on capital expenditure, the £700 million advanced to 2009-10 has been allocated as follows: £400 million to the Highways Agency for strategic network road improvements, including dualling the A46 Newark to Widmerpool and £300 million to the Rail group for train procurement.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on consultancy contracts in 2008-09. [272586]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport spent £57.3 million on consultancy in 2008-09 and its Executive Agencies spent £20.9 million on consultancy in 2008-09.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273562]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 797-98W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people work in his Department's Communications Directorate. [274719]

Mr. Hoon: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268543]

Mr. Hoon: Rules relating to travel claims are set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on the practice of holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. [268535]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport and its agencies hold staff away days as part of its commitment to staff and team development. The Head of the business area arranging the event will determine whether to hold the away day outside the Department's buildings. The underlying assumption is that the Department's own building will be used where appropriate.

Driving: Licensing

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* provisional and *(b)* full driving licences were issued in each year since 1998. [273836]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of provisional licences issued in each financial year since 1998-99 are:

Financial year	*Provisional licences issued*
1998-99	760,049
1999-2000	616,720
2000-01	685,921
2001-02	792,603
2002-03	867,626
2003-04	915,232
2004-05	906,523
2005-06	958,698
2006-07	1,002,386
2007-08	1,045,498
2008-09	954,204

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not record the volumes of how many drivers exchanged their provisional licence for a full licence. However, we do record the number of drivers who have passed their test, as follows:

Financial year	*Number*
1998-99	580,880
1999-2000	580,223
2000-01	605,661
2001-02	614,608
2002-03	651,566
2003-04	673,129
2004-05	779,440
2005-06	837,472
2006-07	831,545
2007-08	856,523
2008-09	873,539

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Pay

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time staff employed at the Government Car and Despatch Agency in London earn less than £15,944 per annum. [274699]

Mr. Hoon: The Government Car and Despatch Agency has no full-time employees earning £15,944 per annum or less.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Windsor of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 49-50W, what progress has been made on the introduction of electronic motor insurance certificates; and if he will make a statement. [274957]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A first draft of regulations has been prepared and is being discussed internally and with the motor insurance industry.

We aim to lay regulations before the end of the year, if the proposed approach proves to be practicable.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with National Express on its East Coast Main Line franchise; and if he will make a statement. [273989]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* Under the Franchise Agreement, a Franchise Performance Meeting between Department for Transport officials and National Express East Coast is held every four weeks to discuss the delivery of its franchise agreement and obligations. The last such meeting took place on 23 April 2009.

Railways: Tickets

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train operating companies are required under the terms of their franchise agreements to introduce smart ticketing. [273833]

Paul Clark: The following franchises have a requirement within the terms of their franchise to introduce or accept ITSO based smartcard ticketing:

South West Trains

London Midland

East Midlands Trains

National Express East Coast

Cross Country

The new South Central franchise will also include similar provisions.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements regarding smart ticketing he will place on the operating company awarded the South Central franchise currently under tender. [273834]

Paul Clark: In line with all recent franchise competitions, the operator of the new South Central Franchise will be required to introduce an ITSO based smartcard ticketing system across the franchise, with the scheme introduced by January 2012.

With regard to the introduction of Oyster Pay As You Go within the London area the operator will be required to work with Transport for London and the Department for Transport to secure its implementation.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made on delivering the commitments made in the 2007 White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway on smart ticketing; and if he will make a statement. [273835]

Paul Clark: The introduction of ITSO smartcards has been mandated in all recently let rail franchises and will be included in the South Central franchise.

The Department for Transport, Transport for London and train operators are working together on the acceptance of Oyster Pay As You Go at London train stations and the acceptance of ITSO Smartcards on Oyster equipment.

Rushenden Link Road

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding stakeholders have committed to the Rushenden Link Road project. [274799]

Paul Clark: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) jointly committed a total of £12 million for the Rushenden Link Road scheme in June 2006. The HCA (formerly Communities and Local Government) made £9 million available through their Thames Gateway programme fund, with the remaining £3 million coming from SEEDA.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who the funding stakeholders for the Rushenden Link Road project are. [274800]

Paul Clark: The South East England Development Agency and the Homes and Communities Agency (formerly with the Communities and Local Government) are the key funding stakeholders for the Rushenden Link Road project and jointly committed £12 million to fund the scheme in June 2006.

Shipping: Pollution

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold discussions at EU level to seek to establish a low emission shipping zone in European coastal waters. [272522]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A Sulphur Oxides (SO_x) Emission Control Area has been in force in the North Sea area (including the English Channel) since 2007. Since then, the UK has played a significant role in the development of the revised MARPOL Annex VI which the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted last year and which will result in a further significant reduction of emissions from ships of sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides, and improved air quality in our coastal regions. We consistently seek to develop measures to reduce ship emissions in forums such as the IMO and the European Union.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 366W, on trade unions, which trade unions his Department's agencies recognise. [271924]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport's agencies recognise the following trade unions:

Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency—Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS),

Maritime and Coastguard Agency—PCS, Prospect and Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDA),

Highways Agency—PCS, Prospect and FDA,

Driving Standards Agency—PCS,

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency—PCS, Prospect and Unite/Amicus

Vehicle Certification Agency—PCS and Prospect

Government Car and Despatch Agency—PCS, Prospect and Unite.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 366W, on trades unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional annual value of such provision is. [271925]

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Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, the Driving Standards Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency provide trade unions with office facilities for exclusive use.

The notional annual value of such provision is £81,231.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding is in place to encourage the construction of zero-carbon homes. [249774]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The following initiatives currently provide financial support to encourage the construction of zero carbon homes:

Stamp Duty Land Tax Exemption—Stamp Duty relief for zero carbon homes was announced in Budget 2007 to act as an incentive to developers of new zero carbon homes. The exemption covers the first acquisition of a zero carbon home costing up to £500,000. For homes costing in excess of £500,000 there will be a reduction of £15,000. The exemption is in place for all new homes for a period of five years ending on 30 September 2012.

Zero Carbon Hub—The Zero Carbon Hub, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, was launched in June 2008 to guide, monitor and coordinate the zero carbon home programme. In 2008-09, the Department for Communities and Local Government provided approximately £250,000 of grant funding to the Hub to help with set up costs.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report; [272145]

(2) how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [272146]

Joan Ruddock: The Department occupies one building which falls within the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings (certificates and inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. The cost of carrying out the inspection of the air-conditioning system was £1,437.50. A copy of the inspection report will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* people and *(b)* households were in fuel poverty in each local authority area in each year since 2000; and what the Government's target for fuel poverty reduction was in each such year. [274049]

Joan Ruddock: Since 2000, fuel poverty data at a sub-regional level are only available for 2003, for England. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.co.uk/

The following table shows estimated fuel poverty levels for each local authority in England in 2003:

	Number
Allerdale	2,700
Barrow in Furness	2,200
Blackburn with Darwen	3,900
Blackpool	4,400
Bolton	7,100
Burnley	2,700
Bury	4,700
Carlisle	2,900
Chester	3,100
Chorley	2,600
Congleton	2,200
Copeland	2,100
Crewe and Nantwich	3,000
Eden	1,500
Ellesmere Port and Neston	2,100
Fylde	2,000
Halton	3,200
Hyndburn	2,400
Knowsley	4,200
Lancaster	3,700
Liverpool	14,200
Macclesfield	3,700
Manchester	11,900
Oldham	5,700
Pendle	2,600
Preston	3,600
Ribble Valley	1,400
Rochdale	5,500
Rossendale	1,800
Salford	6,400
Sefton	8,000
South Lakeland	2,800
South Ribble	2,500
St Helens	4,900
Stockport	7,300
Tameside	5,800
Trafford	5,500
Vale Royal	3,100
Warrington	4,800
West Lancashire	2,800
Wigan	8,300
Wirral	9,200
Wyre	2,900
North West Total	187,400
Adur	1,400
Arun	3,500
Ashford	2,500
Aylesbury Vale	3,600
Basingstoke and Deane	3,400
Bracknell Forest	2,200
Brighton and Hove	6,500
Canterbury	3,300
Cherwell	2,900
Chichester	2,600
Chiltern	1,900

	Number
Crawley	2,100
Dartford	2,000
Dover	2,900
East Hampshire	2,400
Eastbourne	2,400
Eastleigh	2,500
Elmbridge	2,700
Epsom and Ewell	1,400
Fareham	2,400
Gosport	1,900
Gravesham	2,300
Guildford	2,800
Hart	1,800
Hastings	2,500
Havant	2,800
Horsham	2,700
Isle of Wight	3,800
Lewes	2,200
Maidstone	3,300
Medway	6,200
Mid Sussex	2,800
Milton Keynes	4,700
Mole Valley	1,800
New Forest	4,000
Oxford	2,900
Portsmouth	5,200
Reading	3,200
Reigate and Banstead	2,700
Rother	2,300
Runnymede	1,700
Rushmoor	1,900
Sevenoaks	2,500
Shepway	2,600
Slough	2,300
South Bucks	1,300
South Oxfordshire	2,900
Southampton	5,600
Spelthorne	2,000
Surrey Heath	1,700
Swale	3,100
Tandridge	1,700
Test Valley	2,500
Thanet	3,700
Tonbridge and Mailing	2,400
Tunbridge Wells	2,500
Vale of White Horse	2,500
Waverley	2,600
Wealden	3,300
West Berkshire	3,100
West Oxfordshire	2,100
Winchester	2,400
Windsor and Maidenhead	2,900
Woking	1,900
Wokingham	3,000
Worthing	2,500
Wycombe	3,400
South East Total	186,500
Bath and North East Somerset	4,100
Bournemouth	4,400
Bristol City of	10,200
Caradon	2,200
Carrick	2,500
Cheltenham	2,800

	Number
Christchurch	1,100
Cotswold	2,100
East Devon	3,300
East Dorset	1,900
Exeter	2,900
Forest of Dean	2,200
Gloucester	2,900
Isles of Stilly	100
Kennet	1,800
Kerrier	2,700
Mendip	2,700
Mid Devon	1,900
North Cornwall	2,300
North Devon	2,400
North Dorset	1,500
North Somerset	4,700
North Wiltshire	3,000
Penwith	1,900
Plymouth	6,700
Poole	3,300
Purbeck	1,100
Restormel	2,700
Salisbury	2,800
Sedgemoor	2,900
South Gloucestershire	5,700
South Hams	2,100
South Somerset	4,000
Stroud	2,700
Swindon	4,400
Taunton Deane	2,700
Teignbridge	3,200
Tewkesbury	1,900
Torbay	3,700
Torridge	1,700
West Devon	1,400
West Dorset	2,500
West Somerset	1,000
West Wiltshire	3,000
Weymouth and Portland	1,700
South West Total	128,900
Birmingham	26,500
Bridgnorth	1,400
Bromsgrove	2,100
Cannock Chase	2,300
Coventry	7,800
Dudley	7,900
East Staffordshire	2,900
Herefordshire County of	5,000
Lichfield	2,300
Malvern Hills	1,900
Newcastle under Lyme	3,300
North Shropshire	1,600
North Warwickshire	1,600
Nuneaton and Bedworth	3,100
Oswestry	1,100
Redditch	1,900
Rugby	2,200
Sandwell	7,900
Shrewsbury and Atcham	2,500
Solihull	4,600
South Shropshire	1,200
South Staffordshire	2,500
Stafford	3,100

	Number
Staffordshire Moorlands	2,500
Stoke on Trent	7,100
Stratford on Avon	2,800
Tamworth	1,800
Telford and Wrekin	4,100
Walsall	6,700
Warwick	3,000
Wolverhampton	6,600
Worcester	2,400
Wychavon	2,800
Wyre Forest	2,500
West Midlands Total	138,900
Barnsley	6,300
Bradford	12,400
Calderdale	5,400
Craven	1,500
Doncaster	8,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	8,500
Hambleton	2,200
Harrogate	3,800
Kingston upon Hull City of	7,300
Kirklees	10,700
Leeds	19,300
North East Lincolnshire	4,600
North Lincolnshire	4,300
Richmondshire	1,200
Rotherham	6,700
Ryedale	1,500
Scarborough	3,100
Selby	1,900
Sheffield	13,900
Wakefield	8,700
York	4,600
Yorks and Humber Total	13,600
Amber Valley	3,300
Ashfield	3,200
Bassetlaw	3,000
Blaby	2,100
Bolsover	2,100
Boston	1,600
Broxtowe	2,900
Charnwood	3,800
Chesterfield	2,800
Corby	1,400
Daventry	1,700
Derby	6,100
Derbyshire Dales	1,900
East Lindsey	3,900
East Northamptonshire	2,000
Erewash	3,000
Gedling	2,900
Harborough	1,800
High Peak	2,300
Hinckley and Bosworth	2,500
Kettering	2,200
Leicester	7,500
Lincoln	2,400
Mansfield	2,800
Melton	1,300
Newark and Sherwood	2,900

	Number
North East Derbyshire	2,500
North Kesteven	2,500
North West Leicestershire	2,300
Northampton	5,000
Nottingham	7,800
Oadby and Wigston	1,300
Rushcliffe	2,600
Rutland	900
South Derbyshire	2,100
South Holland	2,200
South Kesteven	3,300
South Northamptonshire	1,900
Wellingborough	1,900
West Lindsey	2,300
East Midlands Total	111,900
Babergh	2,200
Basildon	4,000
Bedford	3,600
Braintree	3,200
Breckland	3,300
Brentwood	1,600
Broadland	3,000
Broxbourne	1,800
Cambridge	2,400
Castle Point	2,000
Chelmsford	3,600
Colchester	3,800
Dacorum	3,000
East Cambridgeshire	1,800
East Hertfordshire	2,800
Epping Forest	2,700
Fenland	2,300
Forest Heath	1,500
Great Yarmouth	2,700
Harlow	1,800
Hertsmere	1,900
Huntingdonshire	3,700
Ipswich	3,300
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	3,900
Luton	4,400
Maldon	1,400
Mid Bedfordshire	2,800
Mid Suffolk	2,300
North Hertfordshire	2,700
North Norfolk	2,900
Norwich	3,500
Peterborough	4,100
Rochford	1,800
South Bedfordshire	2,500
South Cambridgeshire	2,900
South Norfolk	2,900
Southend on Sea	4,400
St Albans	2,700
St Edmundsbury	2,500
Stevenage	1,900
Suffolk Coastal	3,100
Tendring	3,900
Three Rivers	1,700
Thurrock	3,400
Uttlesford	1,600
Watford	1,600
Waveney	3,300
Welwyn Hatfield	2,100

	Number
East England Total	131,9000
Barking and Dagenham	3,900
Barnet	6,700
Bexley	5,000
Brent	5,300
Bromley	6,700
Camden	4,800
City of London	200
Croydon	7,700
Ealing	6,100
Enfield	6,000
Greenwich	5,300
Hackney	4,600
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,800
Haringey	5,200
Harrow	4,000
Havering	5,000
Hillingdon	4,800
Hounslow	4,300
Islington	4,200
Kensington and Chelsea	4,100
Kingston upon Thames	3,200
Lambeth	6,100
Lewisham	5,900
Merton	4,200
Newham	5,800
Redbridge	5,200
Richmond upon Thames	4,100
Southwark	5,400
Sutton	3,900
Tower Hamlets	3,800
Waltham Forest	5,300
Wandsworth	5,900
Westminster	5,600
London Total	162,200
Alnwick	900
Berwick upon Tweed	800
Blyth Valley	2,200
Castle Morpeth	1,200
Chester le Street	1,500
Darlington	2,800
Derwentside	2,500
Durham	2,200
Easington	2,700
Gateshead	5,600
Hartlepool	2,600
Middlesbrough	3,800
Newcastle upon Tyne	7,300
North Tyneside	5,400
Redcar and Cleveland	3,800
Sedgefield	2,500
South Tyneside	4,300
Stockton on Tees	4,700
Sunderland	7,700
Tynedale	800
Tynedale	1,600
Wansbeck	1,800
Wear Valley	1,900
North East Total	70,400

Fuel poverty is not measured in terms of number of people who are fuel poor. The Government's long-term objective, as prefigured by s.1 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 is that, as far as reasonably practicable, by 22 November 2016, persons in England should not live in fuel poverty. The interim objective of the Fuel Poverty Strategy in England is that, so far as reasonably practicable, the Government would seek an end to fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010. The Government set no annual targets in respect of the 2016 and 2010 targets.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* other greenhouse gas emissions arising from (i) cars, (ii) buses, (iii) all road vehicles, (iv) trains, (v) aviation and (vi) shipping in each of the last 10 years. [266631]

Joan Ruddock: The latest 2008 provisional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions were published on 26 March 2009. DEFRA is currently publishing the DECC climate change statistics; the 2008 Final UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Statistics may be found at the following web address:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/index.htm

The proportion of UK *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* other greenhouse gas emissions arising from (i) cars, (ii) buses, (iii) all road vehicles, (iv) trains, (v) domestic aviation and (vi) domestic shipping in each of the last 10 years, are shown in the following table. These figures have been compiled from the DECC Provisional UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Statistics. These percentages are calculated on an 'End User' basis, i.e. the emissions are reallocated from the production and distribution of energy to the users of that energy.

Percentage contribution of specified transport categories towards total emissions of carbon dioxide and all greenhouse gases 1998-2007 by end-user

Percentage

Gas/sector	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
(a) Carbon dioxide										
(i) Cars	16.0	16.6	16.3	16.0	16.9	16.2	16.1	16.1	15.7	15.9
(ii) Buses	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
(iii) All road vehicles	24.4	24.9	24.4	24.0	25.4	24.7	24.6	24.9	24.6	25.2
(iv) Trains	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
(v) Domestic aviation	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4
(vi) Domestic shipping	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0

Percentage contribution of specified transport categories towards total emissions of carbon dioxide and all greenhouse gases 1998-2007 by end-user

Gas/sector	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Percentage 2007*
(b) Greenhouse gases										
(i) Cars	12.9	13.7	13.7	13.6	14.4	13.9	11.9	13.9	13.6	13.8
(ii) Buses	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
(iii) All road vehicles	19.6	20.6	20.4	20.4	21.5	21.2	21.2	21.5	21.3	21.8
(iv) Trains	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
(v) Domestic aviation	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
(vi) Domestic shipping	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.9

Housing: Standards

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many buildings in each of the last five years have been constructed to PassivHaus standards. [249776]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* There is currently only one building completed to the PassivHaus Standard as certified by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in the UK—Canolfan Hyddgen in Machynlleth, Wales. This was designed and constructed by JPW Construction.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 is; and how much has been spent on Phase 1 to date. [271991]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The budget for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 is £36 million. Currently the total grant spend is £12,895,587.50. In addition £3.4 million has been spent on administration and certification in relation to the programme.

Peers' Interests

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 409W, on Peers' interests, on what date the proposed meeting was cancelled. [266356]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We were informed of the cancellation on 31 January 2009.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress the Government *(a)* made during 2008 and *(b)* has made to date in 2009 towards meeting the targets in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [274029]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's UK Sixth Annual Progress Report on Fuel Poverty was published on 2 October 2008. It shows that, in 2006, the latest period for which figures are available, there were around 3.5 million households in fuel poverty across the UK, an increase of one million households since 2005. Around 2.75 million of these were vulnerable households (containing children, the elderly, or a person who is disabled or long-term sick).

In England, there were around 2.4 million fuel poor households, of which around 1.9 million were vulnerable. This represents a rise of 900,000 households from 2005 to 2006 and a rise of 700,000 vulnerable households over the same period.

As fuel prices continue to rise faster than incomes, the proportion of households in fuel poverty continued to increase. Projections indicate that for 2008, a further 1.2 million households in England might be in fuel poverty.

More recent progress will be reported in the Seventh Annual Progress Report on Fuel Poverty to be published later this year.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 on fuel poverty since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [274030]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has not commissioned research on the effect of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. However, I announced a review of fuel poverty during evidence to the EFRA Select Committee on 14 January 2009.

The Review is examining whether existing measures to tackle fuel poverty could be made more effective. It is also considering whether new policies should be introduced to help us make further progress towards our goals, particularly in light of market conditions and our aims to reduce carbon emissions.

The initial findings of the Fuel Poverty Review are expected in the summer of 2009.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department at each pay band have responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; what other posts in his Department and its predecessors each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [274051]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has the following officials by pay band with responsibility for fuel poverty and the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000.

	Number
SCS Pay Band 1	2
Grade 6	1
Grade 7	5
SEO	1
HEO	6
EO	3
AO	1

DECC is planning to supplement the team with two additional Grade 7 posts. In addition support is provided when required from other parts of DECC.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and (c) civil servants in the Government Equalities Office since its creation; and at what cost. [268262]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then a total of 21 laptops have been purchased for use by civil servants only. The total cost of providing these laptops was £39,032.

Equality: Regulation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation has imposed new burdens on local authorities in relation to equality and diversity since 1997. [273392]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Government are committed to ensuring that all new burdens falling on local authorities are fully and properly funded. Any policy which increases the cost of providing local authority services is subject to the new burdens doctrine and, where appropriate, funding is provided through the formula grant system or through specific grants.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of funding arrangements for rape crisis centres. [273395]

Maria Eagle: In March 2008, the Minister for Women and Equality announced a £1.1 million Special Fund to Rape Crisis Centres (members of Rape Crisis England and Wales). This was a targeted response to specific evidence from Rape Crisis England and Wales that their members faced financial difficulties. Following evidence from The Survivors' Trust, the terms of this year's £1.6million Special Fund have been expanded to ensure that members of both Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and The Survivors' Trust can apply.

The Special Fund and other central Government funds are provided in addition to local funding, for example from local authorities, health bodies and charitable trusts. The Government believe that local decision makers are best placed to assess local needs, and Government expect the majority of funding to the sexual violence voluntary sector to come from local sources.

Nevertheless, the Government recognise the ongoing problems experienced by the sexual violence sector, particularly in respect of accessing local funding. Officials across Government are working to consider what more we can do, based on the recommendations made by the Home Office's Stakeholder Advisory Group on Sexual Violence and Abuse Funding Sub-group.

My Department has commissioned a research project to help improve our understanding of the stability and sustainability of the violence against women voluntary sector, which includes Rape Crisis Centres (members of Rape Crisis England and Wales). We are keen to develop a robust evidence base to help Government better support this sector.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Loans

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government has received in interest on loans to developing countries in each year since 2004. [269056]

Mr. Thomas: The Government, through the Department for International Development, has received the following amounts of loan interest from developing countries in the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08:

	Low income countries[1]	Middle income countries[1]	Total
2004-05	508,180	2,263,040	2,771,220
2005-06	28,821	1,724,631	1,753,452
2006-07	11,401	1,694,981	1,706,382
2007-08	11,102	1,396,409	1,407,511
Total	559,504	7,079,061	7,638,565

[1] 'Developing countries' has been interpreted to mean low income and middle income countries as currently defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee.

The majority of these amounts (92.7 per cent.) refer to middle income countries; the remainder is for low income countries (7.3 per cent.). A substantial proportion of these interest payments refer to a reducing debt portfolio of old investments by CDC.

These figures do not include interest payments to the Export Credit Guarantee Department on rescheduled defaulted commercial credits that were guaranteed by them.

Developing Countries: Water

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to facilitate international support for the Global Framework for Action for water and sanitation in the next 12 months. [274939]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Global Framework for Action was announced by my hon. Friend the Minister of State on behalf of the UK and the Netherlands, at the partnership event on water and sanitation, during the United Nations High-Level Event on the millennium development goals in September 2008. Since then, a number of steps have been taken to promote the Global Framework for Action.

DFID is now working closely with UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the Netherlands and others to refine the operational aspects of the Global Framework for Action. To this end, DFID is hosting a working meeting in May 2009 to address these issues in more detail and to help define a more detailed process for promoting and implementing the Global Framework for Action over the coming 12 months.

Natural Disasters: Monitoring

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will assess the merits of increased use of satellite imagery to monitor the humanitarian conditions of those affected by natural disasters. [273837]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) makes full use of UNOSAT, the UN programme which provides the international community with access to satellite imagery for use both in humanitarian relief and disaster prevention, on a day-to-day basis and in particular during humanitarian emergencies. For example, DFID used it to monitor the effects of Hurricane Ike and Cyclone Nargis.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will raise at the United Nations the potential for increased use of satellite imagery better to monitor the humanitarian situation of those affected by natural disasters. [273838]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UN is already making increased use of satellite imagery to monitor humanitarian situations. The UN has developed the UNOSAT programme which provides the international community with access to satellite imagery for use both in humanitarian relief and disaster prevention.

Overseas Aid

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what priority is accorded to the provision of *(a)* water and sanitation and *(b)* health and education in his Department's decision-making processes on aid distribution. [274941]

Mr. Michael Foster: The provision of water and sanitation and health and education are millennium development goals (MDGs). The UK Government are committed to achieving the MDGs and the Department for International Development's (DFID) Third White Paper stated that water and sanitation and health, education and social protection are essential services. The importance of improving these services is reflected in DFID's commitment to spend at least half its bilateral financial support on them.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid he has made available to Sri Lanka for 2009-10; and to which projects such aid *(a)* has been and *(b)* is to be allocated. [275080]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since September 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £7.5 million of humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka. Of this, £1.96 million remains on hand to respond rapidly to needs on the ground.

In the 2009-10 financial year DFID has made available: £500,000 to the United Nations Children's Fund for water and sanitation provision and child protection activities; £500,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the emergency airlift of 5,000 tents for internally displaced persons; £550,000 to the United Nations Operations to provide 1,400 emergency shelters together with water and sanitation provision for at least 11,500 IDPs; and £650,000 to the International Organisation for Migration to establish, equip and staff 10 emergency mobile health clinics in IDP camps and provide emergency transport and logistics services.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Fireworks: Noise

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the reduction of the decibel level of fireworks permitted under regulation 8 of the Fireworks Regulations 2004; and if he will make a statement. [274422]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* I have had no such discussions recently.

Israel: EU External Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to ensure that individuals or companies which market or sell within the UK properties in Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem, the West Bank or the Golan inform potential purchasers of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's recently issued advice on the risks of such purchases; what steps the Government is taking to publicise that advice; and what steps the Government is taking to enforce the legal responsibilities of those who sell or market the properties. [271618]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises UK citizens that there are risks involved in purchasing property in Israeli settlements on land considered to be occupied under international law in East Jerusalem, the West Bank or the Golan. Prospective purchasers should be

aware that future peace deals could have consequences for properties purchased in these settlements. The advice is available on the FCO website.

Legislation specifically regulating the conduct of estate agents in the UK is not considered to apply to overseas property transactions. However, estate agents marketing overseas properties do have legal obligations to prospective purchasers under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. The Regulations oblige businesses not to mislead consumers through acts or omissions in their commercial practices. Failure to inform prospective purchasers of the risks involved in purchasing properties in the settlements could potentially amount to a misleading omission under the Regulations where this was likely to cause the average consumer to make a different choice. The Regulations are primarily enforced by local trading standards departments.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273707]

Chris Bryant: Because the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in June 2007 separate figures are not available for expenditure on furniture in the Leader of the House's Office.

Information prior to 2007 is available only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which departments participate in the inter-departmental group on the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research established by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [272901]

Mr. Malik: The Group is led by Home Office officials and has members from the Department of Health, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Food Standards Agency, the Health and Safety Executive, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research, the Health Protection Agency, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Pesticides Safety Directorate.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms the inter-departmental group on the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research (3Rs) uses to ensure that other UK regulatory bodies take account of progress made in relation to the 3Rs. [272902]

Mr. Malik: The Inter Departmental Group on the 3Rs (IDG3Rs) was originally established by the Home Office to improve the application of the 3Rs and promote research into alternatives, reduce the need for toxicity testing through better sharing of data, and encourage the validation and acceptance of alternatives.

The group is one of the key mechanisms by which government policy and practice with respect to the scientific validation of alternative methods is co-ordinated by officials. The group also provides a means for Government Departments and Agencies to work with the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs).

As part of its work, the group ensures that the United Kingdom representative to the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC) is briefed in advance of meetings and that developments at ESAC and ECVAM are given due weight by Government Departments and regulatory agencies. Information on the validation of alternative methods within Europe is provided through the United Kingdom representative to ESAC. Relevant papers are distributed to members of the group as soon as they become available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of Government funding for the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research was provided by her Department in the last 12 months. [272903]

Mr. Malik: In 2007-08, the latest year for which accounts are available, the Home Office provided £250,000 towards the funding of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3RS). This represented 9.5 per cent. of total Government funding for the centre. The Home Office has also provided £250,000 funding in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Asylum

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been waiting 12 months or more for a decision on their case; and how many of these *(a)* have sought permission to work and *(b)* have been granted permission to work under the provisions of the 2003 EU Reception Directive. [273980]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through examination of individual case records.

The United Kingdom Border Agency's asylum targets are based on case conclusion times and the agency is committed to fully concluding 90 per cent. of new asylum applications within six months by the end of 2011.

Asylum: Females

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many female asylum seekers were interviewed with their children present during the first or subsequent substantive interview in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [272601]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not record statistics in relation to the attendance of mothers with their children during the substantive interview on any of our internal databases. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [274560]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott) on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 282W.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department's agencies spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273767]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's expenditure on furniture and fittings can be found in Note 14 (Tangible Fixed Assets) to the Home Office Resource Accounts which are published annually. The latest published figures are for the year 2007-08 which can be found at the Department's website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts-07-08

The Stationery Office publication references for the Resource Accounts for previous years are:

Home Office Resource Accounts 2006/07 (HC 1006);

Home Office Resource Accounts 2005/06 (HC 124);

Home Office Resource Accounts 2004/05 (HC 826).

The Home Office 2008-09 Resource Accounts will be available in July.

The expenditure incurred by Criminal Records Bureau and Identity and Passport Service can be found in their published annual reports and accounts which can be obtained from the Stationery Office.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273787]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not held centrally in the Home Office and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Detainees: Children

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children of asylum seekers *(a)* had and *(b)* had not begun to receive a standard programme of child immunisation before entering immigration removal centres in the last 12 months; and how many of those who had not begun to receive immunisations have subsequently started a programme of immunisations at an immigration removal centre. [272840]

Mr. Woolas: Health care at all three immigration removal centres where children can be detained includes an undertaking to continue with childhood vaccination programmes already commenced in the UK until they leave the centre. The specific information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by examining each individual record.

Entry Clearances

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent reports her Department has received on allegations that persons have been obliged to sign applications for leave to remain under duress by their spouses; and if she will make a statement. [273047]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost, all relevant information, including an allegation of duress if made would be considered prior to any decision being taken on an application.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from her Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273436]

Mr. Woolas: This specific information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Nevertheless my Department records its total waste arisings as required for the annual Sustainable Development in Government Report, and is working to reduce total waste from its premises.

Fuels: Transport

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign-registered heavy goods vehicles carrying *(a)* gas, *(b)* oil, *(c)* liquified petroleum gas and *(d)* petroleum have entered the UK in each of the last 12 months; and what checks the UK Border Agency carries out on the drivers of these vehicles. [273271]

Jacqui Smith: The Department for Transport are responsible for monitoring the movement of goods across the UK border. This information is not centrally available.

UKBA conducts freight searching operations at each of the Juxtaposed locations in Northern France, as well as ports of entry around the country. Drivers and their passengers are required to present documentation in the form of either a passport, or an ID card to an immigration officer to verify their identity and this applies to everyone seeking entry to the UK without exception.

Once the immigration officer is satisfied with the passenger they are allowed to proceed to the freight search area where their vehicle may be subject to further checks relating to their load as well as a physical search of the vehicle by trained search teams.

Gateway Group

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the Gateway Group established to oversee all requests from her

Department and its agencies for the collection of data outside its annual data requirement processes to begin its work. [273017]

Jacqui Smith: The Gateway Group met for the first time on 28 April. It is chaired by the Home Office's permanent secretary and includes representatives from ACPO, APA, HMIC and NPIA and the independent reducing bureaucracy advocate Jan Berry.

The Gateway Group will meet quarterly.

Identity Cards: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the sums to be allocated to the introduction of identity cards in each of the next six financial years. [271774]

Mr. Malik: The latest projected estimates for the cost of issuing identity cards are published in the sixth National Identity Service cost report presented to Parliament on 6 May 2009. A copy of the report may also be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/download/docA_IPS_cost_reportpercent202009_v11_BM.pdf

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

Immigration

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision will be made in the case with Home Office reference G1082747; and if she will make a statement. [274727]

Mr. Woolas: I wrote to the hon. Member on 27 April with the latest position on the case of G1082747 and this remains the position.

Immigration Controls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent proposals on improving existing collaborative arrangements between *(a)* forces at the UK border and *(b)* police forces and the UK Border Agency have been (i) made and (ii) agreed to; and what timetable has been established for implementation of the proposals agreed to. [273027]

Jacqui Smith: The creation of the UK Border Agency allows us to establish a single and strong border force bringing together immigration and customs controls at our ports.

The role of the police and of other agencies in contributing to border security continues to be a high priority for us.

This year we will build on the high level Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Border Agency and the police published in 2008, in order to improve, strengthen and better coordinate border security arrangements. This will include increased opportunities for joint working including joint threat assessments and operations as well as secondments of UK Border Agency and police staff.

The National Coordinator (Protect), on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), is closely involved in the planning for the border and setting consistent practices across port-based staff in forces across England and Wales.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on immigration controls, when she expects the information on the resources required by the UK Border Agency to be finalised. [274170]

Mr. Woolas: The resource required to deliver the points based system which has five tiers, four of which are currently in operation includes both internal and commercial costs. It is not possible to disaggregate the resources required to operate individual tiers. The commercial costs of implementing PBS costs as a whole will not be known until spring 2010.

International Police Assistance Board

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable has been set for the establishment of the International Police Assistance Board; and what goals she plans to set for the board. [273029]

Jacqui Smith: The International Police Assistance Board was established in July 2008. It is a senior cross-departmental and senior police service advisory body, chaired by the Association of Chief Police Officers. Its aims are to better co-ordinate delivery of HMG cross-departmental initiatives and police service professional interest overseas and to develop a strategic overview of UK aims in international police assistance.

Metropolitan Police: Information and Communications Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the adequacy of the IT resources provided to Metropolitan Police officers in policing fraud. [273253]

Jacqui Smith: The Government allocate funding to police authorities as a whole. The allocation of resources is a matter for the Metropolitan Commissioner and the Metropolitan Police Authority, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

The Government have also specifically allocated £3.5 million to the Police Central e-crime Unit (PCeU) over three years from 2008-09, with the Metropolitan Police Service contributing £3.9 million over the same three year period. One of the main areas of work for the PCeU will be to support the National Fraud Reporting Centre in tackling electronic fraud.

Police: Disclosure of Information

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received of allegations of information about environmental campaign organisations being passed by the police to energy companies. [273278]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office has received no such reports.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any members of the police have met *(a)* representatives of EDF Energy, *(b)* representatives of other energy companies, *(c)* Thierry Lorho and *(d)* representatives of Kargus to discuss (i) Greenpeace and (ii) other environmental campaign organisations. [273279]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office do not hold this information. Meetings held by the police with organisations are operational matters for the police force concerned. The police may provide protective security advice to any organisation where necessary.

Police: Procurement

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that police force procurement processes are coordinated nationally; and what timetable has been set for achieving such coordination. [273022]

Jacqui Smith: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), with support from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), has recently completed a detailed analysis of the police service's spending on goods and services across all 43 forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police. This is the first review of its kind in the public sector.

As a result of the review, ACPO and the NPIA are taking forward two areas of improvement:

Working with suppliers to increase standardisation of policy, processes and cost drivers (such as the removal of onerous terms and conditions).

Identifying areas of spend that are interchangeable with other providers/suppliers that show the greatest potential benefit from further collaboration and standardisation.

The NPIA and ACPO are finalising the plan for implementation of these improvement areas to capture the most significant efficiency improvements at both a national and regional level.

Vetting: Scotland

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of how many people each police force in England and Wales has provided information to assist with basic disclosure checks being undertaken by Disclosure Scotland. [273255]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not held centrally.

Vetting: Voluntary Work

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of the Independent Safeguarding Authority on trends in the levels of volunteering in sport; and if she will make a statement. [272405]

Mr. Malik: There is no reason to believe that the work of the ISA will have an adverse impact on volunteering. A single form will be available for applications to the new Vetting and Barring Scheme and for Criminal Records Bureau disclosures, and a single fee charged where applications are made at the same time. Applications will be free of charge to unpaid volunteers.

The regulatory impact assessment for the Scheme indicated that there would be some additional cost to volunteer organisers arising from the processing of applications by CRB-registered or umbrella bodies, some of whom charge a fee, but this is mitigated by the availability of a free on-line check to employers and users of volunteers once an individual is registered with the scheme.

Government recognise the vital role volunteers have in delivering sports activities. The Home Office, Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health have been working with stakeholders, including sports and voluntary sector bodies and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to ensure that their interests and concerns are reflected within the new scheme.

Part of this work will include issuing sector specific guidance.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many persons who completed apprenticeships were unemployed one year after the end of the apprenticeship in each of the last three years. [274058]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* An apprenticeship is a work-based programme and apprentices must have a job or a work placement as a condition of completing their apprenticeship framework. Many will already be in permanent employment prior to the end of their apprenticeship.

Information on the immediate destinations of apprenticeships upon completion of their apprenticeship is not readily available. This type of information will in future be collected using the framework for excellence learner destination survey with the first results for all FE colleges and work based learning providers available in spring 2009. The survey will be conducted nine months after the end of the academic year and so will not relate exactly to 12 months after the completion of the apprenticeship.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were terminated by an employer on economic grounds in each of the last 12 months. [274059]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* We do not currently hold data centrally about the total number of apprentices made redundant. Working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) we have established a matching

service to help apprentices at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. More generally, providers and the LSC have procedures to advise and relocate apprentices, in cases where providers or employers fail, to help ensure that they are able to continue in work and complete their apprenticeship. The £140 million package announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship places will help fund new provision in both the public sector and private sector, and will extend the opportunities available to people facing redundancy.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what facilities there are in his Department's buildings for staff to stay overnight. [274063]

Mr. Simon: The Department's building services are provided through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), which manage the buildings that DIUS occupies.

The National Measurement Office (NMO) occupies space in Teddington that is owned by DIUS but managed by the NMO.

Beyond being open for normal use in some cases, there are no overnight facilities in any of these buildings.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much each of his Department's agencies spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273793]

Mr. Simon: The National Measurement Office (NMO) and Intellectual Property Office (IPO) have spent on furniture over the last five years as follows.

March to April financial years	*National Measurement Office (NMO) (£)*	*Intellectual Property Office (IPO) (£)*
2004-05	0	51,143
2005-06	0	52,961
2006-07	1,044	239,748
2007-08	1,801	200,800
2008-09	17,084	220,235
Total	19,929	764,887

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's staff work overseas; and in which countries such staff are located. [274067]

Mr. Simon: Two members of DIUS staff are on loan to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office working as part of the Science and Innovation Network and based in posts overseas.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since its creation. [274468]

Mr. Simon: According to our records, there have been no recorded instances of mobile phones (which were provided by the Department) being lost.

Our records show a total of six BlackBerry devices have been lost and not recovered. Two were lost in 2007 and four in 2008. There have been no reports of any BlackBerry devices being lost in 2009. All these devices were lost by civil servants. There were no losses by either Ministers or special advisers.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each year since its creation. [274576]

Mr. Simon: The Department has spent as follows:

(a) Office paper and envelopes are the main recycled office supplies in the Department. Approximately £7,200 per year is spent on these items in London. A significant amount of paper is also used at the DIUS office in Sheffield, but the cost is not separately identifiable because office paper was provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families as building manager until recently.

(b) Printer ink cartridges:

2007/08: £39,586

2008/09: £106,915.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what offices are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by (i) the Learning and Skills Council, (ii) his Department and (iii) the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [274233]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is provided in the following lists.

The Learning and Skills Council

Woburn Court, 2 Railton Road, Woburn Road Industrial Estate, Kempston, MK42 7PN

Pacific House, Imperial Way, Reading, RG2 OTF

NTI Building, 15 Bartholomew Row, Birmingham, B5 5JU

Units 6 and 7 Castle Court, 2 Castlegate Business Park, Dudley, DY1 4RD

Provincial House, 25 Oxford Road, Bournemouth, BH8 8EY

Stuart House, St. Johns Street, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 5DD

Dalton House, Dalton Way, Middlewich, CW10 OHU

Allergate House, Belmont Business Park, Belmont, Durham, DH1 1TW

Oak Tree Court, Binley Business Park, Harry Weston Road, Coventry, CV3 2UN

Venture/Progress House, Regents Court, Guard Street, Workington, CA14 4EW

1 Mallard Way, Pullman Business Park, Derby, DE24 8GX

Foliot House, Budshead Road, Plymouth, PL6 5XR

Penhaligon House, Princes Street, Truro, TR1 1DZ

Richmond Court, Emperor Way, Exeter Business Park, Exeter, EX1 3QS

Redwing House, Hedgerows Business Park, Colchester Road, Chelmsford, CM2 5PB

Conway House, 33-35 Worcester Street, Gloucester, GL1 3AJ

Eagle Point, Segensworth, Fareham, PO15 5TD

5 Brook Court, Whittington Hall, Whittington Road, Worcester, WR5 2ZX

Grosvenor Road, 45 Grosvenor Road, St. Albans, AL1 3AW

4 Earls Court, Henry Boot Way, Hull, HU4 7DY

26 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4AE

Citigate, Longridge Road, Preston, PR2 5BQ

17a Meridian East, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1UU

Alpha Court, Unit 1B, Alpha Court Business Park, Kingsley Road, Lincoln, LN6 3TA

Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1DR

Boardman House, 64 The Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 1NT

Dumayne House, 1 Fox Lane, Palmers Green, London, N13 4AB

Canius House, 1 Scarbrook Road, Croydon, CRO 1SQ

Central House, 3 Lampton Road, Hounslow, TW3 1HY

Arndale House, Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ

The Plaza, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, L3 9QJ

Latimer House, Langford Business Park, Langford Locks, Kidlington, 0X5 1GG

Cheylesmore House North, Quinton Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV1 2WT

Cheylesmore House South, Quinton Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV1 2WT

Security House, Mile Lane, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV21 2NL

Lakeside 500, Old Chapel Way, Broadland Business Park, Norwich, NR7 OWG

Royal Pavilion, Summerhouse Road, Moulton Park Industrial Estate, Northampton, NN3 6BJ

7 Pioneer Business Park, Amy Johnson Way, Clifton Moorgate, York, YO30 4TN

C/O MLS Business Centre, City Gate East, Toll House Hill, Nottingham,NG1 5FY

Hollinswood House, Suite G1, Stafford Court, Telford, TF3 3DD

Kingston House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, TA1 2PX

The Straddle, Victoria Quays, Wharf Street, Sheffield, S2 5SY

Festival Way, Festival Park, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 5TQ

Felaw Maltings, 42 Felaw Street, Ipswich, IP2 8SJ

Technology House, 48-54 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6LE

Princes House, 53 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3XB

Wynyard House, Wynyard Park, Billingham,TS22 5TB

Moongate House, 5th Avenue Business Park, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 OHF

St. Lawrence House, 29-31 Broad Street, Bristol, BS1 2HF

Mercury House, 4 Manchester Road, Bradford, BD5 OQL

The Bora Building, Westlea Campus, Westlea Down, Swindon, SN5 7EZ

All of the LSC's properties are leased.

DIUS

DIUS occupies office space at the following buildings:

Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW

Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PQ

Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, WA7 2GJ

Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, DL3 9BG

Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1SZ

These buildings are neither owned nor leased by DIUS. They are shared under agreements with BERR (for Kingsgate House), DCSF (for Moorfoot, Castle View House and Mowden Hall) and the Research Councils (for Polaris House).

Higher Education Funding Council for England

Northavon House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QD

12th Floor, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DD

Both of the above properties are leased.

Train to Gain Programme

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in each constituency participated in training under the Train to Gain programme since the programme's inception. [274938]

Mr. Simon: I have placed a copy of a table, showing Train to Gain starts in each parliamentary constituency since the inception of Train to Gain, in the House Libraries.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what (1) recent discussions he has had with representatives of UK Financial Investments Ltd. on the policy of *(a)* RBS and *(b)* HBOS on maintaining credit lines to existing commercial customers; [264831]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of UK Financial Investments Ltd. on the approach of *(a)* RBS and *(b)* HBOS in maintaining their existing loan portfolios. [264832]

Ian Pearson: The Government have regular discussions with UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI). The framework agreement sets out the relationship between HM Treasury and UKFI, and is available at:

http://www.ukfi.gov.uk/

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 100W, on banks, if he will take steps to require information relating to pension arrangements of directors in banks supported through UK Financial Investments to be published more often than in annual reports and accounts. [265728]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* Government policy in relation to the disclosure of commercial information by state-controlled companies that are PLCs is that their approach to disclosure should follow the requirements for companies listed on the Stock Exchange, including the Combined Code on Corporate Governance and Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations. Government are following this same approach in relation to the disclosure of commercial information by banks commercially managed by UK Financial Investments (UKFI).

The Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations 2002 require all quoted companies to prepare an annual directors' remuneration report. The remuneration report must contain certain information in respect of each person who has served as a director of the company at any time during the relevant financial year. The details are available at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2002/20021986.htm

Banks: Ireland

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will insure monies invested by British nationals in *(a)* the Bank of Ireland and *(b)* Anglo-Irish Bank. [270351]

Ian Pearson: Deposits with Bank of Ireland and Anglo Irish Bank are subject to the Irish Deposit Guarantee scheme.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether arrangements for the protection of deposits made in UK banks apply to UK holders of deposits in banks in the Republic of Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [270940]

Ian Pearson: The EC Deposit-guarantee Schemes Directive (94/19/EC) sets the minimum terms on which depositors are protected throughout the European Union and European economic area. Some member states have introduced higher limits.

Arrangements for depositors in Irish banks are a matter for the Irish Government.

Deposits in Irish banks are covered up to a level of €100,000 by the Irish deposit guarantee scheme, under the terms of the Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive. In addition to the protection of the Irish Deposit Guarantee Scheme, the Irish Government announced on 30 September 2008 that it would guarantee certain deposits with Irish banks, including all retail deposits, until 29 September 2010.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has had discussions with representatives of the Government of the Republic of Ireland on arrangements to protect deposits made by UK citizens with banks in the Republic of Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [271418]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations and international partners. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274516]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury's complaints procedure is set out on the HMT website under:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_complaints.htm

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273773]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the [illegible] I gave on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, co[illegible] 828W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Fiscal Policy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government plan to bring forward proposals for a second package of fiscal stimulus measures for the UK economy. [274089]

Ian Pearson: The Government have taken decisive action in response to the global economic crisis. The Budget in April announced targeted fiscal support for those most affected by the downturn and to ensure a sustained and sustainable recovery. These measures build on the fiscal stimulus announced in the PBR, along with the support provided by allowing the UK's relatively powerful automatic fiscal stabilisers to operate in full.

Furnished Holiday Lettings Scheme

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and *(b)* representatives of the tourism industry before reaching decisions on the changes to the Furnished Holiday Lettings scheme announced in Budget 2009. [274682]

Ian Pearson: The changes to the Furnished Holiday Lettings rules were made following advice that the different treatments of furnished holiday accommodation in the UK and in the rest of the EEA may not be compliant with European Law. The decision to repeal the rules was taken in order to remove the unfair advantage that landlords of furnished holiday accommodation have over other landlords.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274534]

Angela Eagle: This information is not available in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Interpal

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requests he has made to the US administration for details of the evidence on the basis of which the US authorities designated Interpal as a global terrorist organisation in 2003. [273733]

Ian Pearson: The US Department of Treasury issued a press notice on 22 August 2003, explaining the reasons why the US authorities designated Interpal.

HM Treasury officials are in ongoing discussions with their US counterparts about how best we can work together to facilitate legitimate charitable work, while protecting against the abuse of charities by those involved in terrorist finance. As part of this dialogue, the Treasury has asked the US authorities to consider if any further information can be made available about the basis for Interpal's designation.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from landfill tax in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [274924]

Angela Eagle: Total tax receipts for 2006-07 to 2008-09 are published by HM Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-3a.pdf

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare's letters of 2 December 2008 and 27 February 2009 sent on behalf of his constituent, Mr. Adrian Pritchard. [270093]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Natural Gas: Finance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the cost of cushion gas used in gas storage infrastructure is considered to be capital expenditure for taxation purposes; and if he will make a statement. [267119]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* Cushion gas may be described as the volume of gas intended for long-term use in a gas storage facility, necessary to maintain pressure and to enable redelivery of the stored gas. As such, it is not acquired with a view to being re-sold as an incident of the storage trade, but with a view to being retained long-term as a fixed asset of the business. In those circumstances, the cost of acquiring it is normally capital expenditure for taxation purposes. However, the answer can depend on the particular facts of the case so if, for example, there is systematic evidence of the buying and selling of recoverable cushion gas (perhaps allied to an accounting treatment of the gas as trading stock) this may point to the expenditure being revenue expenditure for tax purposes.

State Retirement Pensions

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to freeze the rate at which pension years can be bought back at the rate applicable before 6 April 2009 in respect of persons who have attempted to buy back one or more years and have not had their application processed by the deadline. [273716]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs have agreed that if a customer has requested a pension forecast before 6 April 2009 but receives the forecast after that date, it will accept payment of class 3 contributions at the pre 6 April 2009 rates, provided the payment is made within one calendar month of the customer receiving the forecast.

Tax Evasion

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of revenue lost to the Exchequer as a result of tax evasion in 2008-09. [273635]

Mr. Timms: There are no estimates of the revenue lost specifically to tax evasion. HMRC published the latest available estimates of tax losses in the Autumn Performance Report 2008:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/autumn-report-2008.pdf

The estimates given in this report include evasion with other causes of losses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273567]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not own the equipment used to provide its ICT systems. The equipment is provided as part of a managed service by the Department's IT suppliers.

The Department has made great inroads in reducing its carbon footprint through active management of its IT services, since the end of 2005 when it re-aligned its contracts with BT and EDS. This work is continuing.

In the summer of 2008 the Department announced its strategy to re-compete its existing contracts over a five year period. A key element of this future contracting strategy is to contractually commit the IT providers to reduce the carbon footprint of the services they deliver to the Department.

The Department, along with others represented on the Chief Information Officers Council (CIO), have produced a "CIO Green ICT Roadmap" to deliver against the 18 target improvement areas outlined in the Greening Government ICT Strategy. A full report of the CIO Council Green ICT Roadmaps will be made available later in June featuring the action plans of all Departments involved in the council against the 18 steps.

Incapacity Benefit

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the 10 most common medical conditions in respect of which incapacity benefit claimants received the benefit were in each of the last five years. [270499]

Jonathan Shaw: The classification identifies some conditions separately while others are grouped together in 'other' or 'miscellaneous' categories. Some of these grouped categories are among those with the highest caseload numbers. The level of detail of the supporting documentation may determine whether a case is allocated to a more specific category, or has to be put in a grouped category. Because of these grouped categories, we cannot be certain what the 10 most common medical conditions among incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants are, only the most common conditions are separately identified.

Incapacity Benefit: Heart Diseases

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants had a recorded diagnosis which was or included a heart condition in each of the last five years; and how much was paid in such benefits to such claimants in each of these years. [270501]

Jonathan Shaw: Having a heart condition does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. Until October 2008 the medical assessment of incapacity for work was the personal capability assessment. This assesses the effects of a person's condition on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities relevant to work.

The information requested is in the following table.

Estimated incapacity benefits expenditure on claimants whose diagnosis includes heart condition (nominal terms)

	£ million
2003-04	363
2004-05	338
2005-06	317
2006-07	296
2007-08	279

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefits includes incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance payable to working-aged adults.
2. Figures include incapacity related income support expenditure for incapacity benefit claimants.
3. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £ million. Estimates are based on information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study land published DWP benefit expenditure tables.
4. DWP benefit expenditure tables can be accessed at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Estimated incapacity benefits case loads of claimants whose diagnosis includes heart condition (nominal terms)

	All
August 2004	76,130
August 2005	70,130
August 2006	64,730
August 2007	59,120
August 2008	53,550

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
3. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to benefit.
Source:
DWP Longitudinal Study

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department has issued to Jobcentre Plus on the priorities for processing different benefit claims within target timeframes. [271690]

Mr. McNulty: No guidance has been issued to Jobcentre Plus as there are no set priorities between different benefits. In 2008-09 Jobcentre Plus exceeded all of its targets for clearing claims for incapacity benefit, income support and jobseeker's allowance, despite a large increase in the numbers of people claiming jobseeker's allowance, implementing the new employment and support allowance, and maintaining historically low levels of fraud and error.

Jobcentre Plus: Vacancies

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the ratio of jobseekers to vacancies in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area, *(c)* Jobcentre Plus area and *(d)* parliamentary constituency. [262243]

Mr. McNulty: The information has been placed in the Library, and provides separate data for unfilled and notified vacancies to give the fullest picture of the number of Jobcentre Plus vacancies. The labour market is dynamic and many new vacancies are filled so quickly they do not appear in the statistics for live unfilled vacancies, which are based on a snapshot of the vacancies available on a particular day.

The coverage of these figures relates only to Jobcentre Plus notified and unfilled vacancies. Many vacancies come up through other recruitment channels and the proportion accounted for by Jobcentre Plus is likely to vary over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Estimates of the number of unfilled job vacancies across the economy as a whole are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

It should be noted that a simple comparison of Jobcentre Plus advertised vacancies to local areas is not the best measure of the work opportunities available to jobseekers. People will tend to look for work in a wider geographical area than a parliamentary constituency.

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contingency plans his Department has put in place to be invoked should delivery of flexible New Deal phase 1 not take place on the expected timetable. [271717]

Mr. McNulty: The Government remain committed to bringing in the Flexible New Deal (FND) phase 1 from October 2009. None of the bids received from shortlisted suppliers in the FND competition have indicated they could not start up by the expected date.

If a provider were to be unable to start delivery in October 2009, suitable contingency arrangements would be agreed for each Jobcentre Plus District involved. Customers would continue to receive support from Jobcentre Plus and have access to the additional support at six months, until the provider was ready to accept referrals.

Pathways to Work

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost *(a)* per start and *(b)* per job of the Pathways to Work programme after its national roll-out; [266112]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost per head of the Pathways to Work programme after its national roll-out. [266113]

Mr. McNulty: Figures are not yet available for the average costs of Pathways to Work since national rollout in April 2008. An independent report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (Department for Work and Pensions Research Report 498) looked at the costs and benefits of Pathways in Jobcentre Plus pilot areas:

> they estimated the cost per Pathways participant (i.e. start) was £402; and
>
> the Institute for Fiscal Studies study did not estimate costs per job entry, but did make an estimate of the total costs and benefits, from job entries. They concluded that for every £1 spent on Pathways, the Government gains £1.51 back in terms of saved benefit bills and increased tax income. This is based on a conservative assumption that Pathways impact on employment and off-flows lasts for only 70 weeks.

Statistics for Provider-led districts will be published in summer 2009.

Pension Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to change the upper capital limit for pension credit for those who qualify for only the savings credit element; and if he will make a statement. [272002]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* There is no upper capital limit in pension credit. Those customers in receipt of the guarantee element of pension credit have linked entitlement to full eligible housing benefit and council tax benefit. However customers who are only in receipt of the savings credit element of pension credit are still subject to the upper capital limit of £16,000 in housing benefit and council tax benefit.

In the 2009 Budget the Chancellor announced that the capital threshold for pension credit (and housing benefit and council tax benefit for those who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) will be increased from £6,000 to £10,000, bringing it into line with the threshold for those living permanently in care homes. This will allow these customers to retain up to £10,000 of capital before it affects their benefit.

The change will take effect from November 2009 and will apply to all pension credit customers, that is, to people in receipt of guarantee credit only, savings credit only or both guarantee and savings credit, as well as all pension age housing benefit and council tax benefit customers.

The Government recognise the importance of supporting pensioners appropriately through the economic downturn. Increasing the capital threshold from £6,000 to £10,000 represents a generous increase in the thresholds and means that the proportion of pension credit recipients who will see their capital fully disregarded rises to 88 per cent. Half a million pensioners stand to gain from this change, with an average weekly gain across all benefits of £4.

Social Security Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claims for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* employment and support allowance, *(d)* pension credit and *(e)* carer's allowance delayed as a result of the misplacing of paperwork by his Department and its agencies in each of the last three years. [271687]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism there is for liaison between staff in Jobcentre Plus offices and local general practitioners on provisions in the Welfare Reform Bill relating to drug users. [272084]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* Under the provisions, problem drug users will be required to agree a rehabilitation plan with a specialist contracted programme provider. Any need to liaise with medical practitioners as a result of this will only be done with the consent of the individual concerned.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Hendon constituency received free television licences in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [272301]

Andy Burnham: I have been asked to reply.

TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, can provide breakdown only by postcode. However, according to the records of the Department for Work and Pensions the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in the Hendon constituency in 2007-08 was 5,830. Figures for 2008-09 are still being compiled.

Vocational Training

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department provides on *(a)* training courses and *(b)* funding for such courses to (i) Jobcentre Plus and (ii) careers advisers. [266121]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what information his Department provides on training courses and funding both to Jobcentre Plus advisers and careers advisers. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers have access to a range of information on the training provision available locally and the eligibility conditions that apply. There are local partnerships agreements in place between each Jobcentre Plus District and the careers advisory services for young people to facilitate discussions on how best to support young people into appropriate employment, education and training.

Jobcentre Plus is working with the Learning and Skills Councils in England and trialling an integrated employment and skills system which improves the availability of information on learning opportunities to its advisers and those in other organisations. Early policy development discussions are being held with the devolved administrations with a view to trialling similar arrangements.

Welfare Tax Credits: Grandparents

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of introducing a national insurance credit for grandparents of working age who provide 20 hours or more childcare per week. [251938]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: Reforms to make the state pension fairer and more widely available will be implemented in April 2010 including a reduction to 30 qualifying years required for entitlement to the full basic state pension and reforms to the system for crediting those with caring responsibilities to reflect the different ways in which people contribute to society. As a result of these changes around 75 per cent. of women reaching state pension age from April 2010 will be entitled to a full basic state pension compared to 50 per cent. without reform. By 2025 over 90 per cent. of both men and women reaching state pension age will be entitled to a full basic state pension.

Building on these reforms, the Government announced in the Budget 2009 that working age grandparents and other adult family members, who care for their grandchildren or other members of their family aged 12 or younger for 20 hours or more a week, will be able to gain national insurance credits toward the basic state pension from April 2011 at an estimated total cost of £35 million to 2050 (Net Present Value, 2009-10 price terms).

Notes:

1. The estimate is consistent with Treasury Economic assumptions from the Budget Report 2009, are in 2009-10 prices, have been rounded to the nearest £5 million.

2. Estimates of the cost of particular elements of coverage reform, such as the "grandparent's credit", depend on the order in which they are modelled. Following the approach used in the Regulatory Impact Assessment accompanying the Pensions Bill, costs presented in this answer refer to the estimated expenditure on a "grandparent's credit" on top of the reforms to coverage set out in the Pensions Acts 2007 and 2008.

3. Figures quoted relate only to benefit expenditure and do not take account of administration costs.

Source:

DWP estimates based on evidence from the Family Resources Survey, demographic projections, and administrative data.

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* weather station area who would be eligible for cold weather payments should temperatures fall below the trigger point. [249424]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the number of benefit units eligible for cold weather payments are not available by parliamentary constituency or local authority, but only by weather station. The available information is given in the following table:

Estimated number of benefit units eligible for cold weather payments by weather station in Great Britain in 2008-09

Weather station	Admin area	Estimated number of eligible benefit units
Aberporth	Ceredigion	4,700
Albemarle	Northumberland	146,100
Andrewsfield	Essex	68,200
Aultbea	Highland	500
Auxtmoor	Highland	800
Bedford	Bedfordshire	84,100
Bingley	West Yorkshire	160,900
Bishopton	Renfrewshire	205,100
Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	11,000
Boulmer	Northumberland	14,600
Braemar	Aberdeenshire	1,600
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	25,900
Camborne (Redruth)	Cornwall	13,400
Carlisle	Cumbria	14,900
Cawdor	Highland	400
Charlwood	West Sussex	43,000
Charterhall	Scottish Borders	2,900
Chivenor	Devon	9,000
Coleshill	Warwickshire	310,300
Crosby	Merseyside	271,700
Culdrose	Cornwall	22,500
Dumfermoan	Dumfries and Galloway	5,300
Dunkeswell	Devon	40,800
Aerodrome		
Dyce (Aberdeen Airport)	Aberdeen	29,200
Edinburgh Gogarbank	Edinburgh	81,500
Eskdalemuir	Dumfries and Galloway	6,400
Filton	South Gloucestershire	58,800
Heathrow	Greater London	983,400
Hereford Credenhill	Herefordshire	53,200
Herstmonceux West End	East Sussex	26,500
High Wycombe	Buckinghamshire	71,200
Hurn (Bournemouth Airport)	Dorset	98,000
Isle of Portland	Dorset	5,100
Kinloss	Moray	14,900
Kirkwall	Orkney	1,200

Estimated number of benefit units eligible for cold weather payments by weather station in Great Britain in 2008-09

Weather station	*Admin area*	*Estimated number of eligible benefit units*
Lake Vyrnwy	Powys	6,000
Leconfield	East Riding of Yorkshire	52,000
Lerwick	Shetland	1,200
Leuchars	Fife	42,600
Linton on Ouse	North Yorkshire	158,900
Lisscombe	Somerset	7,700
Loch Glascarnoch	Highland	800
Lofthus	Redcar and Cleveland	57,900
Lossiemouth	Highland	300
Lyneham	Wiltshire	36,800
Machrihanish	Argyll and Bute	1,200
Manston	Kent	109,100
Marham	Norfolk	25,300
Norwich Airport	Norfolk	50,400
Nottingham	Nottinghamshire	252,600
Pembrey Sands	Carmarthenshire	55,900
Plymouth	Plymouth	25,300
Redesdale	Northumberland	6,200
Ringway	Derbyshire	86,300
St. Athan	Vale of Glamorgan	58,300
St. Catherine's Point	Isle of Wight	4,100
Salsburgh	North Lanarkshire	15,100
Scilly St. Mary	Isles of Scilly	100
Sennybridge	Powys	67,500
Shap	Cumbria	4,900
Shawbury	Shropshire	64,700
South Farnborough	Hampshire	60,400
Stornoway Airport	Western Isles	2,800
Thorney Island	West Sussex	113,000
Tiree	Argyll and Bute	100
Trawsgoed	Ceredigion	1,400
Tulloch Bridge	Highland	2,300
Valley	Anglesey	13,300
Waddington	Lincolnshire	90,000
Walney Island	Cumbria	23,100
Wattisham	Suffolk	54,600
West Freugh	Dumfries and Galloway	5,000
Wick Airport	Highland	2,600
Wittering	Peterborough	28,200
Woodford	Greater Manchester	208,600
Yeovilton	Somerset	27,400

Notes

1. The admin area gives the location of each weather station, not the area which is linked to the weather station. For example, Heathrow weather station covers almost all of Greater London, but not all of it, and some areas outside Greater London are linked to Heathrow weather station.

2. The estimated numbers of eligible benefit units are the most recently available, but they are only estimates.

3. The estimated numbers of eligible benefit units have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Sources

Admin areas for weather stations: the Met Office, October 2008.

Estimated numbers of eligible benefit units: analysis of a scan of benefit recipients eligible for cold weather payments taken at the end of October 2008.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department has allocated for operations in Afghanistan in each year since 2001; and what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on such operations in the next three years. [269921]

Bill Rammell: The information on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) funding for operations in Afghanistan, prior to 2006, is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. However, we can provide the following data of FCO spend in Afghanistan for financial years 2006 to 2009 to show our major areas of spending up to the end of the current Comprehensive Spending Review period:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ million 2009-10*
Administrative and capital costs, geographical directorate	6.7	18.5	29.6	28.8
Contracts: security services (approximate value)	15	19.6	19.6	20.5
Estates Directorate	4.1	4.1	-	-
Strategic Programme Funds: counter-narcotics	16.3	16.3	11.9[1]	21.9
Strategic Programme Funds: migration	*	*	1.3	1.2
Strategic programme Funds: counter-terrorism	0.8	0	5.4	4.5
Afghanistan Bilateral Programme Budget	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5

[1] Estimated allocation.
[2] Estimate.
[3] Not yet finalised.
[4] Not applicable.

British Overseas Territories

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are engaged in work relating to overseas territories. [273194]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 7 May 2009]*: There are 89 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials employed directly on UK Overseas Territories' issues. In addition, other staff with wider FCO responsibilities are called upon as necessary when specific issues arise in the Territories requiring specialist knowledge and expertise.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff work on issues related to the UK Overseas Territories; and if he will make a statement. [273267]

Gillian Merron: There are 89 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff employed directly on UK Overseas Territories' issues. In addition, other staff with wider FCO responsibilities are called upon as necessary when specific issues arise in the territories requiring specialist knowledge and expertise.

Departmental Rail Travel

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidelines his Department has in place on train travel by its officials *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* between the UK and other countries and *(c)* overseas. [273679]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) guidelines for staff travelling by train are as follows:

Within the UK, all staff are entitled to First class rail travel where the one way rail journey time by the quickest and shortest route is two hours or longer according to the published

arrival and departure times in the timetable. Standard class rail travel is used by all staff where the one way rail journey time is less than two hours unless there are exceptional circumstances (eg illness, disability) subject to approval by a manager.

Between the UK and other countries, and overseas, officers in band b (executive officer) and above may travel first class. All other staff travel second or standard class.

EU Institutions: Manpower

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what percentage of the staff of *(a)* European Union agencies, *(b)* the Council of the European Union, *(c)* the European Parliament and *(d)* the European Commission were UK nationals in each year since 1997; [270837]

(2) what percentage of new recruits to the staff of *(a)* European Union agencies, *(b)* the Council of the European Union, *(c)* the European Parliament and *(d)* the European Commission were UK nationals in each year since 1997; [270838]

(3) what percentage of the staff of *(a)* the European Parliament, *(b)* the Council of the European Union, *(c)* European Union agencies and *(d)* the European Commission (i) in total and (ii) above grade 14 are UK nationals. [270839]

David Miliband: The information required to respond to the first three parts of these parliamentary questions is owned by each EU institution, and it is more appropriate for the institution in question to be approached with any questions on the make-up of their own staff. The European Commission publish their staffing figures annually on the Europa Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/civil_service/about/figures/index_en.htm

The Government are clear that it is in the EU and UK's interests to have successful UK candidates working at the heart of the EU's institutions.

European Union

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates he had *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings with the European Union Special Representative for Central Asia on the situation in the region in the last 12 months. [274805]

Caroline Flint: There has been no ministerial contact with the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Central Asia in the last 12 months. However, senior officials have continued to meet the EUSR on a regular basis.

Hamas

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department had with the House of Commons authorities on the meeting held on the Parliamentary estate on 22 April 2009 involving a video link with a senior leader of Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [274027]

Bill Rammell: This Department made no representations to the House of Commons authorities regarding a video link meeting with a senior leader of Hamas on 22 April 2009. We are not aware of any representations received from right hon. Members, hon. Members or members of the public regarding this meeting. However, we have consistently called for Hamas to renounce violence, recognise Israel, and adhere to previous Palestinian agreements.

Hostages: British Nationality

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens his Department has been informed are being held hostage abroad; in which countries they are being held; and for how long they have been held in each case. [273130]

Gillian Merron: As of 5 May 2009 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is providing consular assistance to the families of eight British citizens being held hostage abroad. Five British citizens have been held in Iraq since May 2007, one in Somalia since April 2008, one in Nigeria since September 2008 and one in Mali since January 2009.

India: Religious Freedom

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will encourage the Indian government to implement the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief arising from the report of her 2008 mission to India. [273271]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to work through the European Union on a number of human rights issues as part of a continuing EU-India Human Rights Dialogue. The recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief were identified by EU colleagues as a subject for discussion at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue meeting in February 2009. It was agreed by both sides that there would be continued exchanges about discrimination, including on religious grounds. The recommendations will be a useful point of reference for future engagement with India on human rights issues.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of attacks on Baha'is in the Iranian town of Semnan on 25 February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [272573]

Bill Rammell: We have received a series of worrying reports regarding anti-Baha'i activities in Semnan, including looting, arbitrary arrests and the desecration of a Baha'i cemetery. In December 2008 agents of the Ministry of Intelligence raided 20 Baha'i homes in the town, and on 25 February 2009 at least two of these homes were subsequently attacked with petrol bombs.

We have expressed our concerns to the Iranian Government and called on Iran to put an end to the persecution of religious minorities and to respect and protect the right to freedom of religion and belief, as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a State Party.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Londonderry of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 29W, on Iran, what his policy is on revisions to June 2008 E3+3 offer to Iran; and what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on this matter. [272914]

David Miliband: The E3+3 offer of June 2008 remains on the table and would provide Iran with everything it needs for a modern civil nuclear power programme as well as a range of economic and political benefits.

The fundamental approach of the E3+3 has not changed. The E3+3 made clear on 8 April 2009 that it is fully committed to the dual-track strategy of pressure and engagement. Our objective remains the suspension of the Iranian nuclear programme as a prerequisite before full negotiations can take place.

The decision of the US Administration to play a full part in future E3+3 negotiations with Iran presents Iran with a window of opportunity. If Iran suspends its nuclear enrichment programme and enters into talks, we can discuss the details of the offer in more detail. Iran has not yet taken any such steps. Iran should not expect the offer to be open-ended.

I have met Secretary of State Clinton on a number of occasions to discuss the US review of its Iran policy. Our most recent meeting was on 2 April 2009. Our officials are also in regular contact.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since 27 December 2006 the UN Sanctions Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1737 has exercised its mandate to designate additional *(a)* individuals, *(b)* equipment, *(c)* goods and *(d)* technology in relation to Iran's nuclear or ballistic missile programme; and if he will make a statement. [270975]

David Miliband: The UN Sanctions Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1737 has not added new designations under the original Resolution. However, the measures imposed by UN Security Council Resolution 1737 have since been strengthened by UN Security Council Resolutions 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008), which expanded the lists of individuals, equipment, goods and technology subject to sanctions.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Pakistani counterpart on the political situation in Swat; and if he will make a statement. [271525]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed the situation in North West Frontier Province with Foreign Minister Qureshi on 25 April 2009. Officials based at our high commission in Islamabad also continue to hold frequent discussions about the political situation in Pakistan with a wide range of Pakistani Ministers, politicians and officials. The situation in Swat has been a regular theme of discussions. We have concerns about the recent peace agreement—an effective and sustainable peace deal is one which can end violence, not create space for further violence.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* experts have been sent to the Turks and Caicos Islands as part of his Department's Emergency State Building Team; what the duration of their stay is; and what remit the team has. [273270]

Gillian Merron: Two officials have been sent in succession, on a short-term basis, to the Turks and Caicos Islands to work at the Governor's Office.

Two technical experts have been sent to the Turks and Caicos Islands for a period of 12 months. One is to oversee the disbursement of funds from the UK's £5 million contribution to the Turks and Caicos Islands' Disaster Recovery Plan. The other is to work with the Ministry of Finance in support of the Turks and Caicos Islands' Fiscal Stabilisation Plan.

In light of the Commission of Inquiry's Final Report, which is due by 31 May 2009, the Government will need to give consideration to the provision of further experts.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Insolvency

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many registered charities declared themselves insolvent in each of *(a)* the last five years and *(b)* the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [272401]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated May 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written parliamentary question on how many registered charities declared themselves insolvent in each of (a) the last five years and (b) the last 12 months.

With regard to how many registered charities declared themselves insolvent in each of the last five years, the Charity Commission do not currently record this information centrally. However, the following tables which set out the number of charities who were removed from the register, in each year, since 2005 and each month since April 2008 and the reasons recorded for their removal. Our data on reasons for removal from the Register only goes back, in a comparable form, to 2005-06.

The following tables refer to those charities which are required to register with the Commission by law. Smaller charities are not required to register with us; the threshold for registration was an annual income of £1,000 until April 2007 when this threshold was increased to £5,000.

Charities removed from the Register due to insolvency are likely to have fallen under the category 'Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons'. However, it is unlikely that insolvency accounts for more than a small minority.

Reason for removal	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Ceased to exist or operate due to merger, incorporation or transfer of funds	1,592	1,725	1,436	4,753
Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons	3,344	2,691	3,270	9,305
Voluntary removal of charities below the minimum registration threshold	28	8	245	281
Duplicate registrations and other corrections	174	152	122	448
Total	5,138	4,576	5,073	14,787

	2008									*2009*			
Reason for removal	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
Ceased to exist or operate due to merger, incorporation or transfer of funds	148	104	148	54	44	180	112	164	139	153	235	103	1,584
Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons	233	457	314	308	265	300	390	1,367	540	282	398	328	5,182
Voluntary removal of charities below the minimum registration threshold	18	24	22	23	8	22	35	18	27	32	87	300	616
Duplicate registrations and other corrections	5	1	7	3	3	3	1	4	2	4	2	6	41
Total	404	586	491	388	320	505	538	1,553	708	471	722	737	7,423

The figures for 2008-09 show an increase over previous years as a result of our work to improve the accuracy of the Register of Charities. A key aspect of our strategy is the prompt removal of charities that are inactive and with which we can no longer establish contact. The marked peak in November 2008 is a direct consequence of this strategy.

I hope this is helpful.

Death: Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drug-related deaths there were in (i) Crosby constituency and (ii) Merseyside in the last 12 months. [273608]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drug-related deaths there were in (i) Crosby constituency and (ii) Merseyside in the last 12 months. (273608)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where *(a)* the underlying cause was alcohol related (Table 1) and *(b)* the underlying cause was drug poisoning, where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate (Table 2), in Crosby constituency and Merseyside metropolitan county in 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of alcohol-related deaths,[1] Crosby constituency and Merseyside metropolitan county[2], 2007[3]

	Deaths
Crosby constituency	10
Merseyside metropolitan county	304

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was alcohol-related, as shown in box 1.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] All figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrose and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl.K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Table 2: Number of deaths from drug misuse[1], Crosby constituency and Merseyside metropolitan county[2], 2007[3]

	Deaths
Crosby constituency	2
Merseyside metropolitan county	51

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning, as shown in box 2, and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] All figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

Box 2: Drug-related poisoning deaths International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16,F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64

Box 2. Drug-related poisoning deaths International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Death: Nutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths from malnutrition and the effects of hunger there have been in settings other than hospitals and private and public care homes in each Government Office region since 1997. [273544]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from malnutrition and the effects of hunger there have been in settings other than hospitals and private and public care homes in each Government Office region since 1997. (273544)

Malnutrition may be recorded as the underlying cause of death, but this is a rare occurrence. The 'effects of hunger', as the effects of malnutrition may be reported on a death certificate, is never recorded as the underlying cause of death, because it is defined by the International Classification of Diseases as a 'secondary cause' only. Consequently, deaths with any mention of either of these causes on the death certificate are reported together.

The attached tables provide the numbers of deaths in settings other than hospitals and private and public care homes where (a) malnutrition was the underlying cause of death (Table 1), and (b) malnutrition or 'effects of hunger' was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate (Table 2), for persons resident in each government office region in England, for the years 1998 to 2007 (the latest year available). Table 2 includes deaths where malnutrition was a complication of the underlying cause (for example cancer of the stomach) in addition to deaths where it was reported as the underlying cause.

Table 1. Deaths in settings other than hospitals and care homes where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death[1], persons resident in Government office regions in England[2], 1997 to 2007[3]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
North East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Northwest	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	3	1	1
Yorkshire and the Humber	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
East Midlands	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2
West Midlands	2	4	2	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	2
East of England	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
London	2	1	1	4	2	0	1	2	1	1	4
South East	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0
South West	4	7	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) for 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Deaths in settings other than hospitals and care homes where malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate[1], persons resident in Government office regions in England[2], 1997 to 2007[3]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
North East	1	4	2	2	2	2	1	4	4	2	2
Northwest	6	2	4	2	4	2	5	4	9	7	5
Yorkshire and the Humber	3	5	6	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	4
East Midlands	4	3	4	4	2	2	2	3	1	5	5
West Midlands	14	12	11	6	11	3	4	6	3	5	5
East of England	6	4	8	3	5	5	3	3	2	7	8
London	12	7	10	7	3	1	6	2	3	6	5
South East	4	6	6	8	2	3	5	4	6	7	6
South West	23	22	9	5	5	2	5	9	7	4	2

[1] Cause of death was defined using the international Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means mat the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274552]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott) on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 676W.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274206]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Non-profit Making Associations: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on not-for-profit organisations in the London Borough of Bexley. [273206]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) is working with key partners to understand the impact of the economic downturn on third sector organisations. At present the available evidence is incomplete and it is too soon to fully evaluate the impact of the downturn on the sector at a constituency level.

The Government continue to take the difficulties many third sector organisations face during this recession very seriously, which is why the £42.5 million package announced in "Real help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises" provides targeted help for the sector to face these challenges. This package of support was designed together with third sector leaders and took into account submissions from over 80 charities. This action plan builds on the wide range of measures the Government have put in place to support people through the economic downturn, and on the Government's long-term commitment to voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

The OTS will continue to monitor this situation closely and work with its partners to share evidence on this issue and will host a sector-wide summit on the economic downturn in June. In addition, the Third Sector Research Centre will also be factoring the impact of the downturn into its analysis of the sector.

Pensioners: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in households with a net income of less than £130 a week in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* Merseyside in each of the last five years. [273614]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners with a net household income of less than £130 a week in (a) Crosby constituency and (b) Merseyside in each of the last five years. (273614)

The information requested is not available.

Sexuality: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Office for National Statistics' Sexual Identity Project has concluded; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the project's most recent report. [274079]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on whether the Office for National Statistics' Sexual Identity Project has concluded; and if the most recent report will be placed in the Library (274079).

The ONS Sexual Identity Project formally concluded on 8 May 2009 with the publication of guidance on measuring sexual identity in social surveys and a report on a pilot survey which was used to inform the addition of the sexual identity question on all ONS social surveys in January 2009.

These reports are available on the National Statistics website at the following addresses:

Measuring Sexual Identity: A guide for researchers:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutstatistics/measuringequality/sexualidentityproject/guidance/measuring-sexual-identity--a-guide-for-researchers.pdf

Developing survey questions on sexual identity: Report on the General Lifestyle (GLF) split-sample pilot:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutstatistics/measuringequality/sexualidentityproject/questtestand-implem/index.html

Copies of these reports will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

In addition, ONS is planning to publish experimental statistics on sexual identity in Autumn 2009 with the aim of first national statistics estimates being available in 2010.

Skin Cancer

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group have been diagnosed with skin cancer in each of the last 10 years. [269789]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women in each age group have been diagnosed with skin cancer in each of the last 10 years. [269789]

The latest figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant melanoma of skin registered in England are for the year 2006. Figures from 1997 to 2006 for (a) men and (b) women by age group are given in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1, Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin', by age group, Males, England, 1997 to 2006

Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1-4	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
5-9	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
10-14	4	4	0	2	2	5	3	2	2	3
15-19	14	15	17	13	9	7	8	16	25	21
20-24	35	22	22	32	41	41	40	44	49	50
25-29	70	70	58	65	72	65	60	78	70	87

Table 1, Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], by age group, Males, England, 1997 to 2006

Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
30-34	89	107	97	110	134	116	121	120	119	109
35-39	110	119	123	143	139	163	152	200	198	214
40-44	138	160	148	165	185	180	177	258	255	262
45-49	177	173	181	170	219	226	219	245	240	267
50-54	219	261	232	252	270	240	248	258	287	290
55-59	203	206	209	248	270	342	360	371	451	426
60-64	235	215	249	298	298	321	342	368	383	472
65-69	233	243	251	295	302	311	324	376	435	446
70-74	234	230	221	269	277	324	358	354	416	457
75-79	194	190	225	272	253	266	281	311	340	371
80-84	115	127	144	188	189	195	234	253	269	313
85+	84	93	110	117	141	139	142	177	167	220
Total	2,154	2,236	2,287	2,640	2,801	2,946	3,069	3,432	3,706	4,009

[1] Malignant melanoma of skin is coded to C43 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2, Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], by age group, Females, England, 1997 to 2006

Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-4	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
5-9	0	2	1	0	0	2	3	1	2	2
10-14	3	1	5	1	2	2	5	4	3	4
15-19	18	21	23	22	26	17	19	34	38	33
20-24	57	53	56	73	85	90	67	84	104	94
25-29	123	133	112	137	150	152	121	148	178	182
30-34	140	171	184	202	195	240	221	251	241	233
35-39	180	168	211	219	260	214	295	284	297	343
40-44	200	211	202	261	272	235	267	327	342	362
45-49	259	271	228	246	319	278	301	326	334	381
50-54	276	296	294	332	355	366	363	360	351	409
55-59	216	227	267	302	329	378	390	426	424	459
60-64	269	232	238	266	260	271	303	361	374	433
65-69	257	228	287	268	299	323	307	328	386	347
70-74	251	244	266	262	296	319	319	326	356	372
75-79	226	257	277	274	278	322	306	330	363	349
80-84	197	184	181	243	267	246	269	283	309	318
85+	191	202	215	248	212	259	293	291	292	328
Total	2,864	2,902	3,050	3,356	3,605	3,715	3,849	4,164	4,396	4,649

[1] Malignant melanoma of skin is coded to C43 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Trading Funds: Accountancy

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to box 3.A of the final report of the Operational Efficiency programme, what additional resources are to be made available to the Office of Public Sector Information to enable enhanced oversight of trading funds. [274198]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) will deliver enhanced oversight and governance from within existing resources. Balancing impact, priorities and resourcing continues to be a priority and OPSI will continue to focus on ensuring fair and transparent access to public sector information through the range of initiatives and responsibilities within OPSI's remit.

Unemployment

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women over the age of 50 years became unemployed in (i) England, (ii) Essex and (iii) Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [273372]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women became unemployed at an age of over 50 years in (i) England, (ii) Essex and (iii) Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. (273372)

Estimates of the number of people aged 50 and over who are unemployed are routinely published, for example in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, available on:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk

These include estimates of the duration of unemployment. However, there are no estimates available for the numbers becoming unemployed at an age of over 50 years in each year.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women over 50 years old became unemployed in (i) Crosby constituency, (ii) Merseyside and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [273615]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women of an age over 50 years became unemployed in (i) Crosby constituency, (ii) Merseyside and (iii) England in each of the last five years. (273615)

Estimates of the number of people aged 50 and over who are unemployed are routinely published, for example in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, available on:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk

These include estimates of the duration of unemployment. However, there are no estimates available for the numbers becoming unemployed at an age of over 50 years in each year.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of funding from his Department for third sector organisations is allocated to organisations which operate only in the United Kingdom. [271487]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector does not fund programmes outside the United Kingdom. Records of which organisations it funds which also operate in other countries are not held centrally.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children In Care: Young Offenders

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care have a criminal record. [272868]

Beverley Hughes: The information asked for is not collected centrally by the Department.

Children: Care Homes

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on making information on the location of children's homes available to police forces; and if he will make a statement. [274180]

Beverley Hughes: The Secretary of State has not received any representations on making information on the location of children's homes available to the police.

Children's homes are required to notify the police where a child from the home has been involved in a serious incident. The home is also required to have effective protocols in place that involve the police for instances where children go missing from care.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what matters remain to be resolved regarding unshielded duplicate records of shielded children on ContactPoint; who is responsible for resolving them; and what steps he is taking to achieve a resolution; [271498]

(2) how many and which local authorities did not meet the 13 March shielding policies deadline for ContactPoint. [271499]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The information needed for ContactPoint comes from existing systems, national and local. These data will be refreshed and updated automatically from these systems on a regular basis. We have received core information from four national data sources and this is the data set that all LAs have been working on to shield records. Work has also begun on the first updated data load from these sources, to ensure records held on ContactPoint are as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

We received a few reports of cases where updates from these sources may not be matching as expected. We took immediate action to investigate and initial indications are that matching is working correctly.

However, as a transitional precautionary measure, we have paused the ongoing data update feed while we investigate the instances reported to us.

This will minimise any risk to records that have been shielded.

Data feed from national systems will re-commence once all local authority ContactPoint management teams have been given access to ContactPoint.

DCSF continue to investigate the reports of duplicate records and will make changes as necessary.

We are taking a prudent and incremental approach to ContactPoint delivery. Local authorities provided a progress update on their shielding activity 13 March, which included whether they had robust arrangements in place to deal with shielding requests on an ongoing basis. Two thirds of local authorities confirmed that they had completed the required shielding actions. These responses were sent in confidence and as part of the normal, ongoing discussion between the Departments and local authorities and as part of the implementation process.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of registered IP addresses from which ContactPoint will be accessible. [274724]

Beverley Hughes: There has been no estimate of the likely maximum number of registered IP addresses from which ContactPoint will be accessible. We expect that the majority of users will access ContactPoint via secure Government networks. The remainder will only be able to access ContactPoint from known, accredited computer systems.

Organisations that access ContactPoint via accredited computer systems will be asked to register IP address(es) for any computer that will be used to gain access. The number of IP addresses each organisation supplies will depend on many factors, including their network architecture. Some organisations will supply one IP address, others will supply a range.

Children: Human Trafficking

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children recovered from trafficking activities who have subsequently gone missing from local authority care in the last 12 months. [273058]

Beverley Hughes: Although information is collected centrally about the number of children who go missing from their care placement, it is not possible to derive data from these statistics about the number who may have been trafficked before coming into care.

The information collected for 2007-08 can be found in Table LAB5 on the weblink as follows:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/FinalDecemberTables.xls

Local authorities have a range of duties to support looked after children to ensure that their needs are met including that they are effectively safeguarded. The care plan of looked after children known to have been previously trafficked should include how to minimise the risk of traffickers being able to re-involve a child in exploitative activities and contingency procedures to be followed if the young person goes missing from care.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 548W, on children: protection, what legal qualifications the senior officials who supplied the professional advice on the publication of the serious case review have. [264255]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* Ministers receive advice from officials with a range of relevant professional qualifications, including legal qualifications.

Coln House Special School

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has received a proposal from Gloucestershire County Council to change the status of Coln House Special School. [274946]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I can confirm that the Secretary of State has not, to date, received a copy of a statutory proposal notice relating to Coln House Special School.

The responsibility for considering formal proposals about school organisation is a local decision making process and is the responsibility of the LA. The independent schools adjudicator considers any appeals against proposals being made by a LA.

The Department has introduced guidance for LAs and other proposers on "Planning and Developing Special Educational Needs Provision". The guidance requires that when considering any reorganisation of special educational needs (SEN) provision proposers will need to demonstrate to parents, the local community and decision makers how the proposed alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with SEN.

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274530]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Upon receipt of a complaint, no matter how it is received, the Department will respond within 15 working days. If it is not possible to give a full reply within this time, for example, if a complaint requires more detailed investigation, we will provide an interim response outlining what is being done to deal with the complaint, when a full reply can be expected and from whom.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on event management services in each of the last three years; and whether such services were supplied by external providers. [274961]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's spend on event management services in each of the last three years cannot be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [274950]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department currently pays all directly and indirectly employed staff working on its London site at least £7.45 per hour.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273776]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To provide a comprehensive answer would incur disproportionate costs.

Pre-school Education: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Tamworth constituency took up free nursery places in each of the last 10 years. [274374]

Beverley Hughes: The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year-olds. This is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per

week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.

Table 1 provides this information for Tamworth parliamentary constituency area from 2004 to 2008. Data at parliamentary constituency level are not available prior to 2004.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] filled by 3 and 4-year-olds: Parliamentary constituency, Tamworth—Position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[5]	Total 3 year olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[6]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[7]	Total 4 year olds
2004	260	610	870	900	120	1,000
2005	310	590	910	900	140	1,000
2006	260	560	830	850	190	1,000
2007	310	650	950	760	190	950
2008	310	690	1,000	820	230	1,100

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the nursery education grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency prior to 2004 is not available.
[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year. Data taken from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31st December in the previous calendar year. Data taken from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31st December in the previous calendar year. Data taken from the School Census.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year. Data taken from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four year olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on the Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/index.shtml

Runaway Children

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities will be assessed under national indicator 71 on young people who run away from home or care. [274179]

Beverley Hughes: As part of the monitoring of performance under national indicator 71, all local authorities must provide quarterly self-assessments on the extent to which their Children's Trust, local Safeguarding Children's Board, or other delegated body has a picture of patterns of running away in their area; of how this information informs local service provision; and of what procedures are in place to respond to the needs of young runaways.

One local authority—Warwickshire—has selected national indicator 71 as one of indicators for which a specified target for improvement is attached, as part of their local area agreement.

Supporting People Programme

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which local authority areas children's services work directly with the Supporting People programme to commission accommodation support services for *(a)* young people at risk and *(b)* care leavers. [271342]

Beverley Hughes: In May 2008, DCLG and DCSF jointly issued guidance "Joint working between Housing and Children's Services—Preventing homelessness and tackling its effects on children and young people". This asks LA children's services and housing services, including services funded by Supporting People, to establish a joint approach to prevent young people with housing needs being passed between services unnecessarily and to maximise positive accommodation outcomes for them. Specific guidance was given on supporting care leavers.

Information about the how such partnerships operate locally is not collected centrally.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Council Tax: Second Homes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people have been prosecuted for a false claim for a council tax discount on a second home in the last year for which figures are available. [274084]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The administration of council tax is a matter for individual local authorities and data on prosecutions are not collected centrally.

HEALTH

Out-of-hours GP Care

8. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the performance of private healthcare companies contracted to provide out-of-hours GP care. [274105]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have had no recent correspondence on the general issue of private healthcare companies contracted to provide out of hours general practitioner care. However, we have had correspondence on the Dr. Daniel Ubani case.

Neither the National Audit Office report on out of hours services from May 2006 nor the Healthcare Commission review of Urgent and Emergency care from September 2008 reported any evidence that independent sector providers delivered a lower quality of out of hours care.

GP Access

12. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that patients resident in border areas of England have access to a GP registered in England. [274109]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are aware of a small number of cases where patients resident in England, registered with a general practitioner (GP) in Wales, have had difficulty switching to an English GP because they do not live within any English GP practice's boundaries.

This was discussed with Gloucestershire NHS during a visit to the Forest of Dean last week and they will seek to resolve the case of the particular couple the hon. Gentleman has raised. They also intend surveying all Gloucestershire residents registered with GPs in Wales to measure how many might wish to change and will consider providing new GP services in the area covered.

Specialist Hospitals

13. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the future of specialist hospitals within the NHS. [274110]

Mr. Bradshaw: The organisation of services to deliver high quality care is the responsibility of the local and regional NHS. There can be a strong future for specialist hospitals but this will depend on their providing services that the NHS wishes to commission and which are sustainable.

Maternity Services

14. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of provision of maternity services in *(a)* Upminster and *(b)* England. [274111]

Phil Hope: In 2008, the Healthcare Commission published 'Towards better births, a review of maternity services in England' which assessed the quality, capability and efficiency of maternity services in England.

There has been no local assessment of maternity services in Upminster specifically, but a general assessment of midwifery services in the area highlighted the need for more resources in midwifery and support services. Investment and recruitment plans are already in place to address this issue.

22. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest assessment is of the adequacy of maternity services in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* England. [274120]

Phil Hope: In 2008, the Healthcare Commission published "Towards better births, a review of maternity services in England" which assessed the quality, capability and efficiency of maternity services in England.

Peterborough Primary Care Trust commissions most of its maternity services from Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This includes the births at home, within the midwifery led unit and in the obstetric unit. The caesarean section rate is one of the lowest in the country.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest assessment is of the adequacy of maternity services in *(a)* Gravesham and *(b)* England. [274113]

Phil Hope: In 2008, the Healthcare Commission published 'Towards better births, a review of maternity services in England' which assessed the quality, capability and efficiency of maternity services in England.

The South East Coast Strategic Health Authority undertook a needs-assessment of maternity services across west Kent in 2008.

Cervarix Vaccine

15. **Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to investigate recent reports of partial paralysis and severe chronic fatigue syndrome experienced by a number of girls shortly after receiving the Cervarix vaccine. [274112]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) considers the safety of vaccines to be of paramount importance and has in place a proactive strategy to monitor the safety of Cervarix vaccine as girls are immunised in the United Kingdom.

To date almost one million doses of Cervarix have been given in the UK and there is no evidence to suggest that Cervarix vaccine has caused chronic fatigue syndrome, paralytic disorders or any other serious or long-term side effects.

NHS Dentistry

16. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people not registered with an NHS dentist. [274114]

Dawn Primarolo: 52.9 per cent. of the population of England saw a national health service dentist in the 24 months ending September 2008.

We have increased dental funding to over £2 billion and made it a national priority in the NHS operating framework that primary care trusts commission services to ensure access to anyone who seeks help in finding an NHS dentist. The NHS is planning that all PCTs will deliver this by March 2011.

19. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the ratio of NHS dentists to residents in *(a)* Kettering, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England; and if he will make a statement. [274117]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is only available to primary care trust (PCT) level. As of 31 March 2008 there were 41 national health service dentists per 100,000 patients in England. In Northamptonshire PCT there were 38.

The dental work force is growing. The same data show that there were 655 more dentists working in the NHS in 2007-08 than there were in the previous year.

Allergy Services

17. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the outcome of the specialist allergy services hub pilot in the north-west; and if he will make a statement. [274115]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS North West have spent the last nine months developing a model for networked allergy services, to be launched in October 2009.

Means of assessing the effectiveness of this model are being integrated into service planning. The strategic health authority (SHA) will liaise regularly with fellow SHAs to share early learning.

Thalidomide

18. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department provides specifically to support those people affected by thalidomide. [274116]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the oral answer I gave earlier today.

Hospital Acquired Infection

20. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the number of people who *(a)* acquired infections and *(b)* died from infections acquired in hospital in the last 12 months. [274118]

Mr. Bradshaw: Best available surveillance data show 3,208 methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and 40,704 Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) reports in 2008 and 910 Glycopeptide resistant Enterococci reports in October 2006 to September 2007 and 418 surgical site infections in orthopaedic surgery in April 2007 to March 2008.

In 2007, the Office for National Statistics recorded 460 deaths where MRSA and 4,056 deaths where Clostridium difficile was mentioned on the death certificate as the underlying cause.

Latest figures show MRSA infections are down 38 per cent. on the same quarter in 2007, and C. difficile infections in patients over two years old are down 35 per cent. on the same quarter in 2007.

NHS Hospitals: Bexley

21. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of NHS hospital services in Bexley. [274119]

Mr. Bradshaw: Annual assessment of performance is undertaken by the Care Quality Commission, formerly Healthcare Commission. Their last report was published in October 2008.

The details for the hon. Gentleman's local hospital and primary care trust are available on the new regulator the CQC's website

www.cqc.org.uk

and on NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk.

Social Enterprises

23. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing the role of social enterprises in the provision of NHS healthcare. [274121]

Phil Hope: In support of the "Right to Request" commitment, we have produced guidance and templates and we are working with NHS Pensions, commissioners and our pathfinders to further increase understanding and capacity.

Through the Social Enterprise Investment Fund, the Department has so far invested £20 million in 200 start-up and existing social enterprises.

Prescription Costs

24. **Mr. Graham Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the pricing of pharmaceutical specials on NHS prescriptions for the purpose of identifying savings in prescription costs. [274122]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer given to him earlier today.

Tuberculosis

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a national target for reducing the incidence of tuberculosis. [274104]

Dawn Primarolo: The national health service next stage review considered all aspects of healthcare including tuberculosis and the need to set new targets. It introduced no new national targets, to ensure that the NHS continues to focus on the small number of targets in the NHS operating framework. Where the incidence of tuberculosis is a local issue, primary care trusts are empowered to deal with it.

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged under 10 years attended hospital accident and emergency departments where the primary or secondary diagnosis was alcohol-related in each health trust area in each of the last three years. [273862]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested on alcohol-related attendances in accident and emergency departments is not collected centrally.

Cancer: Health Services

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has to provide (i) cancer and (ii) cancer-related lymphoedema patients equal access to specialist NHS treatment in each region. [273671]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to make decisions on the commissioning of lymphoedema services based on guidance already issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

(NICE) on treatment for lymphoedema. In 2002, NICE updated its "Improving outcomes in breast cancer" guidance, which makes recommendations on the identification and management of lymphoedema and on the provision of lymphoedema services. In 2004, NICE made further recommendations for commissioners of health services on the provision of the range and volume of rehabilitation services, including lymphoedema therapists, in its "Improving Supportive and Palliative care for Adults with Cancer" guidance. Recommendations on lymphoedema management were also made in NICE'S clinical guidelines on breast cancer published in February 2009. This guidance can be found on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk.

Through the Department's National Cancer Survivorship Initiative, formally launched in September 2008, we are looking at the late effects and long-term consequences of cancer and its treatment, including effects such as lymphoedema.

Drugs: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of prescribing anti-psychotic drugs to persons under the age of 16 years was in each health trust area in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [273861]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held in the format requested.

Health Services

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS facilities have been *(a)* closed and *(b)* had a reduction in the number of services provided since May 1997. [274638]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Deciding where and how to provide national health service services is a matter for the local NHS, in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders. The Department's 2008 publication—"Leading Local Change"—makes clear that any changes should be locally led, clinically driven and built upon a sound clinical case for change. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that immunosuppressive people with a prescription for influenza vaccine have access to the vaccine; and if he will make a statement. [274943]

Dawn Primarolo: The national policy is that seasonal influenza vaccine should be offered to all those aged six months or over in a clinical at-risk group, including immunosuppression. The responsibility for ordering seasonal influenza vaccines for the target population lies with general practitioners (GPs). GPs have a contractual responsibility to their primary care trust under the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (England) Directions 2006 to develop a proactive and preventative approach to offering immunisation against influenza with the aim of maximising uptake in the interest of at-risk patients.

Injuries: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged under 10 years attended hospital accident and emergency departments where the primary or secondary diagnosis was a stab wound or other injury inflicted by a sharp or pointed instrument in each health trust area in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [273863]

Dawn Primarolo: Information about the number of children aged 10 years or younger, who have been admitted to hospital accident and emergency departments where the primary or secondary diagnosis was a stab wound or other injury inflicted by a sharp or pointed instrument is not collected centrally and it is therefore not possible to specify numbers.

Lyme Disease

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the treatment of borreliosis. [273621]

Dawn Primarolo: Clinical guidelines for the treatment of borreliosis, commonly known as Lyme disease, are provided to general practitioners and other physicians by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and published on the HPA's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1204031510081?p=1199451958599

The treatment guidelines published by the Infectious Diseases Society of America in 2006[1] are included within the HPA's advice, together with published guidance for the diagnosis and treatment of neuroborreliosis[2,3].

In addition, the HPA's Lyme Disease Reference Unit advises clinicians directly on treatment and patient referral as appropriate.

Source:

[1] The Clinical Assessment, Treatment, and Prevention of Lyme Disease, Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis: Clinical Practice Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Wormser GP, Dattwyler RJ, Shapiro ED, et al. Clinical Infectious Diseases 2006; 43: 1089-34. Available at:

www.journals.uchicago.edu/CID/journal/issues/v43n9/40897/40897.html

[2] Halperin JJ, Logigian EL, Finkel MF, Pearl RA. Practice parameters for the diagnosis of patients with nervous system Lyme borreliosis (Lyme disease). Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Neurology 1996 46: 619-627.

[3] Practice Parameter: Treatment of nervous system Lyme disease (an evidence-based review). Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. E-published ahead of print on 23 May 2007. Available at:

www.neurology.org/cgi/rapidpdf/01.wnl.0000265517.66976.28v1

Methadone

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of prescribing methadone was in each NHS trust in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [273864]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Theft

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many thefts from NHS premises have been recorded in each of the last five years. [274989]

Ann Keen: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Radon Gas

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to provide *(a)* high level alerts and *(b)* public health advice to those resident in areas prone to high levels of radon gas. [273618]

Dawn Primarolo: Householders and employers are able to find out the risk of a high radon gas level in a property from the radon probability maps of the United Kingdom published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and, for England and Wales, the British Geological Survey.

The HPA operates a website

www.ukradon.org.

It holds annual radon forums with local government, the national health service, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and other stakeholders to publicise the radon programme, to receive feedback, and to explore any policy gaps. HPA also supports regional radon steering groups comprising groupings of local authorities in high risk areas of England and recommends testing homes in radon affected areas (that is where 1 per cent. or more of homes are estimated to be above the Action Level of 200 Becquerels/m^3).

The basis of the Government radon programme in England for existing homes is to target the higher risk areas, where 5 per cent. or more of the houses are estimated to be above the action level. Radon testing programmes are run in partnership between HPA and local authorities, with radon tests offered free to householders in these areas. The local primary care trust and the BRE provide support and registered social landlords such as local councils and housing associations are encouraged to extend the radon testing programmes to all their properties in radon affected areas. HPA informs householders and landlords by letter of the result of the radon test and whether it is near to or exceeds the action level. If so, remediation is advised and householders are encouraged to attend special local events to discuss remediation organised jointly by the HPA, the relevant local authority and the BRE. A small number of homes in England have been found to have radon levels in excess of 10,000 Bq/m^3 (50 times the action level). HPA offers financial help and works with the local authority to remediate these homes, using advice from the BRE to help local contractors.

Devolved Administrations generally mirror English policies and contribute proportionate funds to HPA for each initiative. In particular, a similar radon programme has recently been announced by the Scottish Government, to accompany publication by the HPA of new radon maps for Scotland.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the job descriptions of his Department's Deputy Regional Directors for Social Care and Partnerships are; and who has been appointed to each such post. [272548]

Phil Hope: The deputy regional director's job description is contained in "Job Proforma—Deputy Regional Director" which has been placed in the Library.

The appointed deputy regional directors are:

	Deputy regional director
London	Ian Winter
North West	David Jones
North East	Wendy Balmain
Yorkshire and the Humber	Philip Lewer (Interim)
East Midlands	Rachel Holynska
West Midlands	Denise Porter
East of England	Amanda Reynolds
South West	Lynne Dean
South East	Ian Bainbridge

Swine Flu: Health Education

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to make swine influenza information distributed by the Government accessible to deaf people who use British Sign Language. [274725]

Dawn Primarolo: A British Sign Language version of the swine flu information leaflet will be available to download from the NHS Choices and Directgov websites from Thursday 14 May and by DVD from Wednesday 20 May.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions his Department will make to ensure that deaf and hearing-impaired people have access to the same information as hearing people in respect of the National Flu Helpline. [274940]

Dawn Primarolo: The Swine Flu Information helpline is automated. It offers recorded information but no interaction with call handlers and is not therefore accessible to deaf or hearing impaired people. However, deaf and hearing-impaired people may access the same information through websites and a British Sign Language version of the swine flu information leaflet, available from the NHS Choices and Directgov websites from Thursday 14 May and on DVD from Wednesday 20 May.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisation was awarded the contract as the national partner for the Community Builders programme. [272445]

Mr. Khan: The competition for the contract to act as national partner for the Community Builders programme is still in progress. The Department is currently evaluating tenders and expects to make an announcement in June.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Local Government on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 473, on council tax, what ideas were submitted to the Minister by the hon. Member for Southampton, Test (Dr. Whitehead). [273339]

John Healey: The contents of letters from an individual Member to Communities and Local Government Ministers are treated as private; and, unless the sender specifies otherwise, are not released for public consumption.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 736W, on council tax: valuation, how many domestic dwellings in England were assigned the code CL26 in each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. [273685]

John Healey: The number of properties in England reviewed and cleared with the notification code CL26 in each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

	Number
1997-98	60,365
1998-99	53,811
1999-2000	50,844
2000-01	39,010
2001-02	27,724
2002-03	31,002
2003-04	36,652
2004-05	29,928
2005-06	31,147

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedure her Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via her Department's website. [274529]

Mr. Khan: Full details of how Communities and Local Government handles complaints via all these channels can be found on the Communities website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedom-of-information/complaintsprocedure/

Departmental Internet

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been assigned to the production of video content for her Department's YouTube channel in 2009-10. [273758]

Mr. Khan: None.

Departmental Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on departmental procurement, what the title was of the digital mapping project; and what services that project was commissioned to provide. [273595]

Mr. Khan: The project is called the Pan-Government Agreement, which provides a portfolio of geographical information to central Government Departments. We procured aerial photography from Infoterra.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister is responsible for each regional spatial strategy. [273598]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has overall responsibility for regional spatial strategies.

Day to day responsibility for the eight regional spatial strategies is divided among the CLG ministerial team as follows.

I have responsibility for:

South East;

East Midlands;

East of England;

Yorkshire and Humber.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, The Baroness Andrews has responsibility for:

South West;

West Midlands;

North West;

North East.

Derelict Land: Gardens

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what date she expects her Department to have completed the first stage of its review of the effect of development on gardens. [274824]

Mr. Iain Wright: The deadline for responses from local authorities is 29 May, and we aim to conclude the review by the summer.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses from local authorities her Department has received to its review of the effect of development on gardens. [274825]

Mr. Iain Wright: We will make further statements about the review in due course.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution her Department has made to the cross-Government consultation, Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Children and to the development of Government policy in this area. [274286]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has been positively engaged with work on, "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls" on which the Home Office is leading, since it commenced last year. During the development of the consultation document, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to the Home Secretary to affirm her support for this important agenda particularly through work on the domestic violence agenda, the Supporting People programme and through the domestic violence virtual unit. The Department's officials have actively supported the cross-Government working group that has shaped and developed the current consultation document.

Economic Situation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1498-502W, on departmental conferences, if she will place in the Library a copy of the presentations and handouts produced for the Regeneration in Recession seminar on 18 February 2009. [273459]

Mr. Khan: Henry Overman and Ian Gordon of the Spatial Economics Research Centre, London School of Economics, presented their views at the Regeneration in Recession seminar on 18 February 2009. External stakeholders are responsible for their own presentations and handouts.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 128W, on energy performance certificates, how many fixed penalties have been imposed on landlords in each month since the provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive took effect in England. [274958]

Mr. Iain Wright: Penalty notices are issued by local weights and measures authorities who are empowered to enforce the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. There is no requirement for the Department to be informed when a penalty charge notice is issued.

EU Grants and Loans

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 740W, on the European Commission: financial corrections, what the monetary value is of the provision made for further financial corrections relating to audits carried out on the 1997 to 1999 round of structural fund programmes. [273604]

John Healey: The provision made for further financial corrections relating to audits carried out on the 1997 to 1999 round of structural fund programmes was £25.7 million, as stated in paragraph 1.20.7 of the Department's 2007-08 resource accounts.

Fire Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to give fire authorities the power to promote well-being. [274783]

Mr. Khan: The power to promote well-being is available to local authorities as defined in Section 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 (LGA 2000). That includes those county councils which are also fire and rescue authorities (FRAs).

The possible extension of the power to promote well-being contained within Section 2 of LGA 2000 to all FRAs was considered at the request of consultees in 2003 prior to the introduction of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

The power to promote well-being is intended to reflect the unique community leadership role of local authorities and consequently it has not been extended to any other form of authority with responsibility for delivery of public services. For this reason, and because we believe the powers available to FRAs are sufficient to enable them to undertake any activities required to fulfil the duties and responsibilities placed on them by legislation and the national framework for the fire and rescue service, it was not considered appropriate to amend the scope of this power more widely.

First Time Buyers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to the First Time Buyers Initiative for each of the next three years. [274835]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 67-68W.

Freedom of Information

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1106W, on freedom of information, (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the substantive reply given to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request reference: F0002744, on the Church of Scientology, redacting the name and address of the recipient; [272320]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the substantive reply given to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request reference: F0002977, on all communications between Lord Taylor of Blackburn and Ministers and senior civil servants at the Department about plans by Canatxx to build a gas storage facility at Preesall from 2005 up to the present date, redacting the name and address of the recipient; [272327]

(3) if she will place in the Library a copy of the substantive reply given to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request reference: F0002967, on organisations or projects that have received funding to date on the Preventing Extremism Together Initiative, redacting the name and address of the recipient. [272328]

Mr. Khan: I have today placed copies of the responses to these three Freedom of Information requests in the Library.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of new dwellings were built on previously residential land in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government Office region in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [273239]

Mr. Iain Wright: The percentage, and estimated number, of new dwellings built on previously-residential land in 2007 by region and for England are given in the following table:

New dwellings on previously residential land by Government Office Region 2007

	Percentage dwellings on residential land	*Estimated dwellings on residential land*
North East	14	1,380
North West	22	4,300
Yorkshire and the Humber	24	4,100
East Midlands	19	3,500
West Midlands	23	3,300
East of England	29	6,600
London	37	8,300
South East	32	9,800
South West	28	5,700
England	27	47,100

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on housing: low incomes, what the average cash incentive grant was *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each region of England in each year since 1997. [273953]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of major works voids in social housing in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in England. [274258]

Mr. Iain Wright: The term social housing has been interpreted as social rented dwellings let by local authorities or registered social landlords.

A table showing the number of vacant dwellings in each region and local authority area undergoing or awaiting works has been placed in the House Library.

Figures for RSL dwellings that are vacant and awaiting major works are not available at regional or local authority level. However, figures are available showing the number of RSL dwellings which are vacant but unavailable for letting at a local authority and regional level. A table showing these figures has been placed in the House Library. Figures for RSLs are for general needs self-contained units only.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the right to acquire discount limit for each local authority is; [274853]

(2) what discount was available to tenants under the right to acquire scheme in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [274868]

Mr. Iain Wright: The discount available to tenants under the right to acquire scheme in each local authority area is set out in The Housing (Right to Acquire) (Discount) Order 2002 (Statutory Instrument 2002 No 1091). This is available on the website of the Office of Public Sector Administration:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2002/uksi_20021091_en.pdf

Between 1997, when the right to acquire scheme was introduced, and 2002, the available discounts were specified annually in the following statutory instruments:

The Housing (Right to Acquire) (Discount) Order 1998 (SI 1998/2014)

The Housing (Right to Acquire) (Discount) Order 1999 (SI 1999/1135)

The Housing (Right to Acquire) (Discount) (Amendment) Order 1999 (SI 1999/3028)

The Housing (Right to Acquire) (Discount) Order 2000 (SI 2000/1622)

The Housing (Right to Acquire) (Discount) Order 2001 (SI 2001/1501)

These are also available on the website of the Office of Public Sector Administration:

http://search.opsi.gov.uk/search?client=semaphore_frontend&btnG=Search&site=SI&output=xml_no_dtd&proxystylesheet=opsisearch_semaphore&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&as_q=right%20to%20acquire%20discount&as_ft=i&as_occt=any

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much her Department and its predecessors received in right to buy clawbacks in each year since 1997; [274864]

(2) over what period a former social tenant is liable for clawback under the right to buy scheme. [274867]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under section 155 of the Housing Act 1985, social landlords which have sold properties under the right to buy scheme may require former social tenants who have bought properties and choose to dispose of them within five years of the right to buy sale to repay all or part of the discount they received.

The decision on whether to require repayment rests solely with the landlord. Neither the Department for Communities and Local Government nor any of its predecessor Departments have received any funds as a result of social landlords deciding to require former tenants to repay right to buy discount.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 245-6W, on housing: low incomes, (1) what the maximum right to buy discount is in each of the local authorities offering cash incentives for their tenants to leave the social rented sector; [274877]

(2) how many local authorities which offer cash incentives for social renters to buy a property are in areas where restricted right to buy discounts apply under the Housing (Right to Buy) (Limits on Discount) (Amendment) Order 2003. [274878]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is set out in the following table. As reported by local authorities through the 2007-08 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, the listed local authorities in England provided cash incentive scheme grants, under section 129 of the Housing Act 1988, to assist tenants to acquire an interest in a new home in 2007-08. Grants under section 129 cannot be used for the purpose of assisting local authority tenants buy their existing council home.

Local authority offering cash incentive scheme	*Maximum right to buy discount*	*£ Changed under Housing (Right to Buy) (Limits on Discount) (Amendment) Order 2003 (previously)*
Barnet	16,000	(38,000)
Bournemouth	30,000	—
Camden	16,000	(38,000)
Carrick (now Cornwall Council)	30,000	—
Chesterfield	24,000	—
Croydon	16,000	(38,000)
Dartford	38,000	—
Ealing	16,000	(38,000)
Enfield	16,000	(38,000)
Hackney	16,000	(38,000)
Hammersmith and Fulham	16,000	(38,000)
Harrow	16,000	(38,000)
Hillingdon	16,000	(38,000)
Ipswich	34,000	—
Kingston upon Thames	16,000	(38,000)
Lambeth	16,000	(38,000)
Lewisham	16,000	(38,000)
Mid Devon	30,000	—
North Cornwall (now Cornwall Council)	30,000	—
North Hertfordshire	34,000	—
Norwich	34,000	—
Purbeck	30,000	—
Redbridge	16,000	(38,000)
Redditch	26,000	—
Selby	24,000	—
South Cambridgeshire	34,000	—
St. Albans	34,000	—
Tendring	34,000	—
Three Rivers	34,000	—
Tower Hamlets	16,000	(38,000)
Wandsworth	16,000	(38,000)
Warwick	26,000	—
Watford	16,000	(34,000)
West Somerset	30,000	—
Westminster	16,000	(38,000)
Woking	38,000	—
Wycombe	38,000	—

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average cost to a registered social landlord of maintaining a home in each age profile in 2008. [274836]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 142W.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 127W, on council housing, when the Homes and Communities Agency's review of the benchmarks for high quality urban design, construction and environmental sustainability is expected to be completed. [274889]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) review of standards is planned to culminate in the publication of new HCA Design and Sustainability Standards document in April 2010, in advance of application of the new standards. These new standards will apply to new national housing programmes from April 2011, on completion of the HCA's legacy National Affordable Housing programme (NAHP). Where possible, earlier implementation of the new standards will apply to new housing projects developed on HCA land where HCA is undertaking the role of developer direct.

Judicial Review

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what *(a)* completed judicial review cases and *(b)* partial review cases involving a ministerial decision (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies have been a party in the last 36 months; and what the title and outcome of each such case was. [274904]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 130 of Budget 2009, what steps she plans to take in respect of local authorities which do not contribute adequately to the £600 million of additional recyclable savings required from local authorities in 2010-11. [273360]

John Healey: The local government sector has a strong track record of delivering substantial value for money savings. Authorities are working to go further and are raising their ambition for efficiency. Both central and local government have identified more scope for increased efficiencies which will allow a further one percentage point to be added to the totals savings target in 2010-11 taking it to at least 4 per cent. This will generate an additional £600 million in savings across the sector. This money will be directly recycled within local authorities' budgets to be put towards front line services and keeping council tax down.

Local authority efficiency will be measured annually by the national indicator for efficiency savings. The new comprehensive area assessment (CAA), introduced on 1 April 2009, will report on performance in each area against all the national indicators. The first CAA reports are expected to be published by the inspectorates in late November 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 654W, on domestic waste, what estimate she has made of the effect on the level of performance award grant allocated to local authorities which have been set local area agreement targets in relation to national indicator 191 on residual household waste of such local authorities not meeting those targets. [273670]

John Healey: The level of performance reward grant payable will be determined by the average level of performance achieved across all designated targets in the local area agreement, subject to a minimum threshold of 60 per cent. At this stage it is not possible to determine the precise impact on the level of reward payable of a local authority not meeting targets based upon national indicator 191. The impact will depend upon how far short of the target an area's performance on NI 191 has actually fallen at the end of the LAA, how many designated targets were included in the LAA and the level of performance achieved across the other relevant targets.

Detailed guidance on the reward model has been published at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1148974.pdf

Local Government: Bank Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend her Department's *(a)* investment advice to local authorities and *(b)* procedures for transmitting warnings about the risk profile of investments identified by the Financial Services Authority to local authorities in light of the Icelandic banking collapse. [273214]

John Healey: Under the Local Government Act 2003, local authorities are responsible for their own investment decisions. My officials are working with the Audit Commission, CIPFA and the local authority associations to assess how the Department's investment guidance might be refined in light of the report of the Audit Commission on local authorities and Icelandic banks, and the forthcoming report from the CLG Select Committee. The Department's guidance on local government investments is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

The Financial Services Authority have, for good reasons, a policy of not commenting publicly on individual institutions.

Local Government: Elections

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on single member wards in local government. [273325]

John Healey: The 2006 Local Government White Paper—Strong and prosperous communities—stated that single member wards offer benefits including providing a simple, strong link between the councillor and their electorate, and giving clarity of leadership to the area, while accepting that there is no consensus on this.

We have therefore provided a permissive approach in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 that any principal council who holds whole council elections can request that the Electoral Commission directs the Boundary Committee to undertake a review for the purpose of re-warding the area with single member wards.

Local Government: Equal Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effects on local authorities of the ruling of the Court of Appeal in the case of Joyce Slack and others *v.* Cumbria county council in relation to equal pay claims in the public sector. [274272]

John Healey: Local authorities, in their capacity as employers, are considering the potential implications of the recent court of appeal judgment in "Joyce Slack and Ors and Cumbria county council".

Communities and Local Government continues to monitor the implications of this and similar judgements with the local government employers organisation.

Local Government: Greater Manchester and Leeds

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the city region pilots will have. [273219]

John Healey: Work to identify and agree priorities between the Government and Leeds and Greater Manchester will draw on recent work from the Manchester Independent Economic Review and on innovation in the Leeds city region. Proposals will include new strategy-setting powers over adult skills funding, expected to be in place within three to six months, new joint investment boards with regional development agencies, the Homes and Communities Agency and other partners to co-ordinate and align investment and the piloting of new employment programmes. Further details will be announced in the summer.

Local Government: Inspections

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for each local authority to be inspected under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment; and whether authorities with a good or excellent rating under the previous Comprehensive Performance Assessment regime will receive fewer inspections than others. [273669]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and the other local public service inspectorates. I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 12 May 2009:

Parliamentary Question on what the timetable is for each local authority to be inspected under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment; and whether authorities with a good or excellent rating under the previous Comprehensive Performance Assessment regime will receive fewer inspections than others.

Your Parliamentary Question on the approach to inspection under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment has been passed to me for reply.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) took effect from 1 April 2009 and the first set of joint inspectorate reports covering each of the 152 local areas with a Local Area Agreement and all local authorities will be published in late 2009. CAA represents a fundamentally different approach to promoting better results for local people and better value for public money.

The inspections of local authorities' corporate arrangements (known as corporate assessments) used as part of the former Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework have ceased. CAA does not require routine programmes of such inspections. Instead, the inspectorates are drawing on existing evidence and the information local authorities and their partners already use to manage their businesses to inform the new area assessment. This focuses on outcomes for local people and therefore for the first time also holds the councils' partners accountable for their contribution.

Such routine inspection of local authorities as remains relates primarily to specific services for vulnerable people where the inherent risk is high (e.g. Ofsted's new approach to inspecting child protection arrangements and inspections of youth offending teams led by HMI Probations). Any other inspections involving local authorities will only be triggered where a specific risk or concern has been identified. The total cost of inspection work involving local authorities has reduced by a third from 2003/04 to 2008/09.

The Audit commission will play a new coordinating role for all remaining inspection involving local authorities to ensure that it is risk based and proportionate. Authorities previously assessed as good or excellent (or three or four stars) under CPA, and who are able to demonstrate continued high performance and a strong contribution to positive outcomes for their locality will continue to receive fewer inspections than others.

I trust this information is helpful.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Maps: EU Law

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps the Valuation Office Agency is taking to comply with the EU INSPIRE Directive. [273719]

John Healey: The INSPIRE Directive has limited direct application to the Valuation Office Agency. However, the Agency keeps itself informed about the application of the directive and has had dealings with bodies concerned with the directive, including the UK location council.

Mobile Homes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for establishment of dispute resolution procedures for park home residents. [273717]

Mr. Iain Wright: The written ministerial statement I have made today announced the Government's intention to transfer the jurisdiction on appeals and applications under the Mobile Homes Act 1983 from county courts to Residential Property Tribunals. It is the intention to bring into force the Residential Property Tribunal's jurisdiction at the earliest opportunity.

National Secular Society

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has provided funding to the National Secular Society in the last 12 months. [273212]

Mr. Khan: The Department has not provided funding to the National Secular Society.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will be refunded under the new burdens principle for the cost of rebilling firms which defer 60 per cent. of their business rate increases in 2009. [273213]

John Healey: As set out in a Business Rates Information Letter from 31 March 2009, which was provided to all Billing Authorities in England, any net additional costs to local government as a whole arising from the business rates deferral scheme will be fully funded under the new burdens principle.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will use her powers under the Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007 to reintroduce the pre-April 2008 regime of empty property business rate relief. [273571]

John Healey: In the 2008 pre-Budget-report, the Government announced a temporary measure for the 2009-10 business rates year, raising the threshold at which rates on empty property become liable from £2,200 to £15,000. Seventy per cent. of properties have a rateable value below £15,000, and if empty, will benefit from this measure.

The Government have no current plans to make further changes to empty property rate relief introduced from 1 April 2008. However, as with all taxes, we will keep the position under review. Decisions on taxes are a matter for the Chancellor.

Planning

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for publication of the final version of her Department's planning policy statement on economic prosperity. [273735]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect to publish the final version of Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Prosperous Economies later this year following consultation.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what areas simplified planning zones have operated; and over what period in each case. [273221]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (sections 82-87), amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 (section 28), provides for the creation of simplified planning zones (SPZs). Since

the powers were taken, we are aware of six SPZs that have been created, two of which remain in existence today. These are listed in the following tables:

SPZs in operation

SPZ	Council	Date
Slough Trading Estate	Slough Borough Council	From January 1995 to January 2005. On 12 November 2004 Slough Borough Council agreed to a new up-dated version of the SPZ to run for a further 10 years to 2014.
Kings Norton	Birmingham City Council	From November 1998 to 2017.

Other SPZs that have operated in the past

SPZ	Council	Date
Sir Francis Ley Industrial Park	Derby City Council	From August 1988 to August 1998.
Willowbrook	Corby Borough Council	From September 1988 to September 1998.
Victoria Park	Gedling Borough Council	From November 1991 to November 2001.
Knowsley Industrial Park	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough	Information unavailable.

A new SPZ is proposed in Rochdale.

Planning Permission: Costs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the effect of recent changes to the planning appeals system in relation to extending the costs regimes on local authorities' expenditure for paying out cost claims to applicants who make a planning application and are refused but who win on appeal. [273718]

Mr. Iain Wright: An assessment of the impacts of the guidance in Circular 03/09 'Costs Awards in Appeals and other Planning Proceedings' and the extension of the costs regime to appeals dealt with on the basis of representations in writing can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/impactassessmentcosts

Parties to an appeal are normally expected to meet their own expenses. Costs will normally be awarded where the following conditions have been met:

a party has made a timely application for an award of costs;

the party against whom the award is sought has acted unreasonably; and

the unreasonable behaviour has caused the party applying for costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense in the appeal process—either the whole of the expense because it should not have been necessary for the matter to be determined by the Secretary of State or appointed Inspector, or part of the expense because of the manner in which a party has behaved in the process.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 889W, on Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, which public body made each of the 29 bookings; what the date and purpose of each booking was; what rooms were hired on each occasion; and what the aggregate revenue to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre was from those bookings. [272147]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and I have asked the chief executive of the Agency to respond to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Ernest Vincent, dated 12 May 2009:

Your Parliamentary question asking the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 23 April 2009, Official Report, column 889W, on Queen Elizabeth II (QE2) Conference Centre, if she will list the public bodies that made each of the 29 bookings; what was the date and purpose of each booking; what rooms were hired on each occasion; and what was the aggregate revenue to the QE2 Conference Centre from those bookings has been passed to me for reply.

The information you request is listed below and the aggregate revenue from these bookings has been calculated as £766,320.00:

	Public bodies	Rooms
22 April 2008	Scheme 2009: Identity Cards for Airport Workers (Identity and Passport Service)	Churchill Auditorium and Pickwick Suite
28 April 2008	OSC Info Sharing Day (Department for Children, Schools and Families)	Mountbatten Room, Mountbatten Lounge, Keats Room, Robert Burns Room, Shelley Room and Wordsworth Room
19 May 2008	National Pandemic Influenza Workshop (Cabinet Office)	Westminster Suite, St. James's Suite, Chaucer Room, Keats Room, Robert Burns Room, Shelley Room, Wesley Room, Wordsworth Room
28 May 2008	Making the Difference: Equality, Diversity and the Fire and Rescue Service (Department for Communities and Local Government)	Mountbatten Room and Mountbatten Lounge
11 June 2008	Trust Schools Conference 2008 (Department for Children, Schools and Families)	Mountbatten Room and Mountbatten Lounge, Crown Room, Sovereign Room, Wesley Room, Wordsworth Room
15-20 June 2008	Financial Action Taskforce Conference (HM Treasury)	Fleming Room, Benjamin Britten Lounge, Guild Room, Caxton West, Chaucer Room, Whittle Room, Churchill Auditorium, Crown Room
26 June 2008	MoJ IT Profession (Ministry of Justice)	Mountbatten Room and Mountbatten Lounge, Abbey Room, Elizabeth Windsor Room, Henry Moore Room, Rutherford Room, St. James's Suite, Westminster Suite
2 July 2008	Healthcare for London Stakeholder Event (NHS London)	Mountbatten Room and Mountbatten Lounge
16 July 2008	NHS Press Conference (NHS London)	Fleming Room and Benjamin Britten Lounge
23 September 2008	SCS Forum (Department of Health)	Churchill Auditorium and Pickwick Suite

	Public bodies	Rooms
29 September 2008	D C & L Away Day: Making Connections (Ministry of Justice)	Fleming Room and Benjamin Britten Lounge, Whittle Rooms
8 October 2008	NHS Consultants Contract Conference (NHS Employers)	Churchill Auditorium and Pickwick Suite, Abbey Room, Elizabeth Windsor Room, Henry Moore Room, Rutherford Room, St. James's Suite
9 October 2008	REACH Role Model Sift Event (Department for Communities and Local Government)	Henry Moore Room and Rutherford Room
9 October 2008	Celebrating Success 2008 (Department for Children, Schools and Families)	Churchill Auditorium and Pickwick Suite
22 October 2008	DCLG: Collaborative Procurement Forum (Department for Communities and Local Government)	Henry Moore Room and Rutherford Room
31 October 2008	Skills for Life Conference 2008—Building on Success: Meeting New Challenges (Department for Children, Schools and Families)	Fleming Room and Benjamin Britten Lounge, Abbey Room, Byron Room, Chaucer Room, Crown Room, Elizabeth Windsor Room, Guild Room, Henry Moore Room, Keats Room, Robert Burns Room, Rutherford Room, Shelley Room, Sovereign, St. James's Suite, Wesley Room, Westminster Suite, Whittle Room, Wordsworth Room
17 November 2008	Above and Beyond (The British Council)	Mountbatten Room and Mountbatten Lounge, Abbey Room, Byron Room, Elizabeth Windsor Room, Henry Moore Room, Rutherford Room, St. James's Suite, Wesley Room, Westminster Suite
7-8 December 2008	NHS Chief Executives Video Conference (Department of Health)	Mountbatten Room and Mountbatten Lounge
9 December 2008	PREVENT 08 (Department for Communities and Local Government)	Fleming and Whittle Rooms and Benjamin Britten Lounge, Abbey Room, Byron Room, Caxton Lounge, Chaucer Room, Elizabeth Windsor Room, Guild Room, Henry Moore Room, Keats Room, Robert Burns Room, Rutherford Room, Shelley Room, Sovereign Room, St. James's Suite, Wesley Room, Westminster Suite, Wordsworth Room
22 January 2009	GEO SSG Meeting (Government Equalities Office)	Henry Moore Room
28 January 2009	UKBA Senior Manager's Event (Home Office)	Fleming Room and Benjamin Britten Lounge, Crown Room, Guild Room
5 February 2009	Local Involvement Networks (Links) 'Getting Better Together Conference' (Department of Health)	Fleming and Benjamin Britten Lounge, Abbey Room, Henry Moore Room, Rutherford Room, St. James's Suite, Wesley Room
9 February 2009	UK Border Agency: Assisted Voluntary Returns Seminar (Home Office)	Mountbatten Room and Mountbatten Lounge, Wesley Room, Wordsworth Room
10 February 2009	HPV Implementation Immunisation Programme National Conference (Department of Health)	Mountbatten Room and Mountbatten Lounge
26 February 2009	Information about Children, Education and Schools Conference (Department for Children, Schools and Families)	Fleming Room and Benjamin Britten Lounge, Abbey Room, Henry Moore Room, Rutherford Room
20 March 2009	RC (S) Senior Officials Meeting (Foreign and Commonwealth Office)	Whittle Room and Caxton Lounge
23-24 March 2009	FCO Leadership Conference 2009 (Foreign and Commonwealth Office)	Fleming Room and Benjamin Britten Lounge, Caxton Lounge, St. James's Suite, Westminster Suite, Whittle Room, Fleet Room, Guild Room
24 March 2009	Home Office Senior Civil Service Conference (Home Office)	Churchill Auditorium and Pickwick Suite, Sovereign Room
20 March 2009	Care Quality Commission 'Kick Off' Event (COI)	Churchill Auditorium and Pickwick Suite, Abbey Room, Henry Moore Room, Shelley Room, St. James's Suite, Westminster Suite

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 889W, on the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, what the title was of each conference held at the centre by Central Government Departments was; which Department sponsored each event; and how much was charged for each event. [272555]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and I have asked the chief executive of the agency to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Ernest Vincent, dated 12 May 2009:

Your Parliamentary question asking the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 23 April 2009, Official Report, column 889W, on Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, what the title of each conference held at the centre by central government department was; which Department sponsored each event; and how much was charged for each event has been passed to me for reply.

As has been stated in the reply to the Answer of 23 April 2009, the policy of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre is not to offer discounted rates. Complimentary room hire is offered on very rare occasions and only with my authorisation. There also must be good reason to do so. The meetings below were, bar one, charged at the standard list price. The amounts below are exclusive of VAT.

Date	Conference	Department	Cost (£)
22 April 2008	Scheme 2009: Identity Cards for Airport Workers	Identity and Passport Service	10,230.00

Date	Conference	Department	Cost (£)
28 April 2008	OSC Info Sharing Day	Department for Children, Schools and Families	12,502.50
19 May 2008	National Pandemic Influenza Workshop	Cabinet Office	7,345.00
28 May 2008	Making the Difference: Equality, Diversity and the Fire and Rescue Service	Department for Communities and Local Government	7,485.00
11 June 2008	Trust Schools Conference 2008	Department for Children, Schools and Families	9,505.00
15-20 June 2008	Financial Action Taskforce Conference	HM Treasury	84,485.00
26 June 2008	MoJ IT Profession	Ministry of Justice	15,020.00
2 July 2008	Healthcare for London Stakeholder Event	NHS London	8,685.00
16 July 2008	NHS Press Conference	NHS London	13,545.00
23 September 2008	SCS Forum	Department of Health	9,645.00
29 September 2008	D C & L Away Day: Making Connections	Ministry of Justice	17,815.00
8 October 2008	NHS Consultants Contract Conference	NHS Employers	15,788.50
9 October 2008	REACH Role Model Sift Event	Department for Communities and Local Government	2,090.00
9 October 2008	Celebrating Success 2008	Department for Children, Schools and Families	11,805.00
22 October 2008	DCLG: Collaborative Procurement Forum	Department for Communities and Local Government	Chief Executive's invitation to DCLG colleagues to use QEII Conference Centre for a discussion about collaborative procurement
31 October 2008	Skills for Life Conference 2008	Department for Children, Schools and Families	30,815.00
17 November 2008	Above and Beyond	The British Council	16,616.00
7 December 2008	NHS Chief Executives Video Conference	Department of Health	12,930.00
9 December 2008	PREVENT 08	Department for Communities and Local Government	30,710.00
22 January 2009	GEO SSG Meeting	Government Equalities Office	1,005.00
28 January 2009	UKBA Senior Manager's Event	Home Office	12,775.00
5 February 2009	Local Involvement Networks (Links) 'Getting Better Together Conference'	Department of Health	15,740.00
9 February 2009	UK Border Agency: Assisted Voluntary Returns Seminar	Home Office	8,745.00
10 February 2009	HPV Implementation Immunisation Programme National Conference	Department of Health	6,885.00
26 February 2009	Information about Children, Education and Schools Conference	Department for Children, Schools and Families	16,335.00
20 March 2009	RC (S) Senior Officials Meeting	Foreign & Commonwealth Office	7,515.00
23-24 March 2009	FCO Leadership Conference 2009	Foreign & Commonwealth Office	43,700.00
24 March 09	Home Office Senior Civil Service Conference	Home Office	9,850.00
19-21 April 2009	Care Quality Commission 'Kick Off' Event	COI	45,447.50

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Recreation Spaces

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department provides to local authorities to assist them in discharging responsibilities to provide, manage and maintain parks, recreation grounds and other open spaces; and if she will make a statement. [273548]

Mr. Iain Wright: Public parks and green spaces are primarily funded through revenue support grant provided by Communities and Local Government. Central Government do not prescribe how much should be spent by each local authority on their open spaces; this is a matter for them to determine in line with local priorities.

Communities and Local Government also funds CABE Space, the Government adviser on public space issues, to provide support to all local authorities through advisory services, good practice guidance, campaigns and training. They also help to tackle the retention and recruitment problems that the sector is experiencing and improve the skills mix at the local level; continue to build a supportive evidence base for investment in parks and open spaces; and engage communities in improving their local green spaces.

Unitary Councils

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's latest estimate is of the cost of unitary restructuring in the areas which have new unitary councils. [273259]

John Healey: When seeking parliamentary approval for the nine new unitary councils, we estimated transitional restructuring costs of around £138 million, with total annual savings of at least £100 million. Our latest estimates, following a stocktake exercise we with the support of independent financial experts have undertaken prior to 1 April 2009, are for the restructuring costs to be around £135 million, slightly less than the original estimate.

Unitary Councils: Freedom of Information

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bodies will hold the records of local authorities which have been replaced under unitary restructuring for Freedom of Information Act 2000 purposes. [273209]

John Healey: The Local Government (Structural Changes)(Transfer of Functions, Property, Rights and Liabilities) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/2176) require that where predecessor councils are succeeded by one unitary council, property, rights and liabilities which would include records transfer to the successor council. Where two new unitary councils have been formed in a former county area, the regulations require that the records of the predecessor district councils transfer to the relevant new unitary and those of the predecessor county council transfer to one or other of the new unitary councils as agreed between them. The regulations also require that where there are two successor councils, the one holding the records must make them available to the other.

JUSTICE

Ashwell Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the findings of the Prison Service investigation into the disturbance at HM Prison Ashwell on 11 April 2009. [273535]

Mr. Hanson: As I made clear to the House in my written ministerial statement on 20 April 2009, and in subsequent answers to parliamentary questions, I will make the findings of the investigation and our conclusions on it available to the House in due course.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009; [273957]

(2) what car journeys he undertook in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273958]

(3) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273959]

(4) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273960]

Mr. Straw: I was not accompanied by officials or by special advisers when I attended the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009.

I travelled by car between Ambleside, Cumbria and Oxenholme station and between Glasgow Central station and the venue for the Cabinet meeting.

£132 was incurred for my return travel by train from Oxenholme station to Glasgow Central station. My transport by car to and from Oxenholme station and between Glasgow Central station and the Cabinet venue was provided by the Metropolitan police, the cost of which is a matter for them.

There was no departmental expenditure on accommodation or food and no officials from the Ministry of Justice attended the meeting.

Children: Protection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to encourage local authorities to issue child protection proceedings. [273665]

Beverley Hughes I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities have a clear statutory duty under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 to investigate where they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Where as a result of that investigation they conclude they should take action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare by for example applying for a care order, they must take that action. It is for individual authorities to decide when to initiate care proceedings under section 31 of Children Act 1989 when a child is at risk in their own home.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many child protection cases were heard by the family court in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [273676]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of care, supervision and emergency protection order applications made to the family courts in England and Wales during the specified years.

Number of (a) care applications (b) supervision applications and (c) emergency protection order applications in the England and Wales family courts, 2005-08

Application type	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Care applications	13,498	13,421	13,717	12,089
Supervision applications	897	938	1,069	624
Emergency protection order applications	2,736	1,676	1,459	1,722

[1] Provisional

Notes:

1. 2005-07 data cover all tiers of court, and are as published in the annual Ministry of Justice reports 'Judicial and Court Statistics'.
2. 2008 data exclude applications made to the High Court (which typically account for around 3 per cent. of all child protection applications) and should be treated as provisional. Final figures will be published in 'Judicial and Court Statistics 2008' later in the year.
3. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application. On this basis, an application relating to two children will be counted twice.
4. Figures for Family Proceedings Courts prior to April 2007 are likely to be an undercount. A new method of data collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the coverage and completeness of data. Any comparison with figures prior to April 2007 may be affected by the improved data recording.

Source:

HM Courts Service case management systems

An application will not necessarily result in a full court hearing in every case, as the application can be withdrawn or the proceedings otherwise discontinued before this stage is reached. It should also be noted that an application of one type can result in an order of a different type being made by the court.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273564]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is committed to reducing its carbon emissions in accordance with the campaign initiated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Greening Government ICT Strategy. The MOJ recognises that reducing its ICT carbon emissions is not just about technology but also about embedding sustainability in its process and behaviour as well.

The MOJ has worked to implement the appropriate 'Areas for ICT Carbon Reduction' in the Greening Government ICT Strategy improving the sustainability of its printing, the energy efficiency of its desktop PCs and data centres.

The MOJ has built sustainable IT principles into its IT policy and consideration of sustainability forms part of process of evaluation of changes to the IT estate. The MOJ is working with its suppliers to improve the energy efficiency of IT operations both in its outsourced data centres and at its own sites. It has employed third party expertise to analyse the sustainability of IT operations managed by a sample of the MOJ's key suppliers and advise on how best to realise improvements. This work has already led to increased data centre energy efficiency, and work on the centralisation of data processing will further reduce server energy consumption without negative effect on the volume or efficiency of data processing carried out. The convergence of formerly separate networks offers better sharing of IT resources for staff and the reduction of the overall number of devices we need to deliver the same level of service.

The MOJ has also used initiatives to realise the positive impact that ICT can have on the overall carbon emissions of its operations. It continues to invest in video-conferencing and teleconferencing technology to reduce emissions. The imminent upgrade of desktop PCs will offer not just improved power management to reduce energy consumption but also roaming profiles allowing any users to log on to any machine helping support MOJ estates' goal of 80 per cent. desking and a reduction in the overall size of the MOJ HQ estate.

MOJ is also working on staff awareness of green IT issues. Campaigns have been run encouraging the shut down of electrical items outside of office hours, the reduction of printing and paper consumption and the better use of video-conferencing and teleconferencing to reduce travel.

Elections: Fraud

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there were for offences of electoral fraud arising from elections held in 2008. [274248]

Mr. Wills: The report recently published by the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers entitled "Allegations of electoral malpractice at the May 2008 elections in England and Wales" found that the police had recorded 103 cases of electoral malpractice at those elections. Eighty-one per cent. of the cases required no further action by the police. One case has led to a prosecution, which resulted in a conviction of one person on a charge of making a false application to vote by proxy. Nine cases resulted in formal cautions which may lead to criminal records, with 12 cases under investigation or awaiting advice from the Crown Prosecution Service.

These figures must be seen in the context of over 16 million voters at the local elections in England and Wales in May 2008 in nearly 4,000 separate elections involving over 13,500 candidates.

The report is consistent with earlier findings that the scale and volume of allegations of fraud at recent elections have been decreasing.

Extradition: Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department has incurred on the provision of legal aid for cases involving extradition to the United States in each of the last five years. [274731]

Mr. Malik: Neither the Ministry of Justice nor the Legal Services Commission records extradition cases centrally in terms of the country that is requesting extradition. The information requested could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Judiciary: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many black and minority ethnic people were appointed to the judiciary in each of the last five years. [273691]

Mr. Straw: Following the question tabled in February on appointments, we are in the process of cleansing our data. This has yet to be completed, so I regret that I am unable to respond at this time. I will write with further information in due course, and ensure copies of this information are made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of applications to become a member of the judiciary were from black and minority ethnic candidates in each of the last five years. [273692]

Mr. Straw: We have not been able to provide all the information in the time requested, but are working to provide it. I will write with further information in the near future, and ensure copies of this information are made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Legal Profession: Chinese Community

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are applied to the selection of applicants to participate in the Lord Chancellor's Training scheme for young Chinese Lawyers; and if he will consider the merits of increasing the number of places available under the scheme each year. [273768]

Mr. Wills: Applicants to the Lord Chancellor's Training scheme for young Chinese Lawyers must:

be Chinese nationals aged between 25 and 40 on the application closing date;

be graduates of law who have passed the national lawyers' examination in China and have at least two years' post-qualification experience in a law firm in China;

have excellent written and oral English demonstrated by an overall score of 6.5 or over in the International English Language Testing System test (IELTS), ideally with a score of 6.0 or over in every test;

have specialist experience in one or more areas of legal practice of significance to China's development as a market economy and have strong personal motivation and an ability to adapt to different environments.

From past experience it has also been found desirable that the 15 successful lawyers:

represent a gender balance between males and females;

represent a wide variety of Chinese regions;

be working for Chinese law firms;

be experienced in commercial areas of law;

have a strong interest and perhaps some experience in international work;

be willing and keen to contribute to the development of the Chinese Justice system upon their return;

have excellent communication skills;

be highly motivated to learn, have a positive attitude, and be an excellent team player; and

be capable of resolving ethical dilemmas.

The Ministry of Justice has committed to fund the scheme until 2011. We will review the scheme in due course, using a set of criteria which is likely to focus on value for money, impact, achievements, and fit with our departmental strategic objectives. We will also need to consider the public sector's fiscal restraints at that time. I am sure that my hon. Friend will appreciate therefore that I cannot comment on the merits of increasing the number of places available until the review has been concluded.

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving whole life tariffs are held in each Category A prison. [273817]

Mr. Hanson: The break-down for prisoners on whole life tariffs in high security prisons is as follows:

High security prison	*Number of prisoners*
Belmarsh	0
Frankland	8
Full Sutton	5
Long Lartin	[1]Fewer than 5
Manchester	0
Wakefield	11
Whitemoor	[1]Fewer than 5
Woodhill	0

[1] We have withheld exact numbers because to provide the information at this level could identify individuals.

Life Imprisonment: Females

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female prisoners are serving life sentences with a whole life tariff. [273819]

Mr. Hanson: Fewer than five[1] female prisoners are currently serving a life sentence with a whole life tariff.

[1] We have withheld exact numbers because to provide the information at this level could identify individuals.

Life Imprisonment: Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners sentenced to whole life tariffs are held in secure NHS premises. [273818]

Mr. Hanson: Fewer than five[1] prisoners sentenced to whole life tariffs are currently detained in secure hospitals.

[1] We have withheld exact numbers because to provide the information at this level could identify individuals.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff *(a)* employed in and *(b)* seconded to the Interventions and Substance Abuse Group of the National Offender Management Service have previously worked for (i) the probation service and (ii) the Prison Service. [273536]

Mr. Hanson: Of staff currently in post in the National Offender Management Service's Interventions and Substance Misuse Group (ISMG):

(i) 15 have a national probation service background;

(ii) 125 have a HM Prison Service background; and

(iii) Seven have previously worked in both HM Prison Service and the national probation service.

Nine current ISMG staff are seconded from the national probation service.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many hours per week on average high security prisoners have been confined to their cells *(a)* in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* over a similar period immediately before the introduction of core day standardisation. [273797]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners in the High Security Estate are locked in their cells for an average of 109 hours a week. Prior to the introduction of the Standard Core Day prisoners were locked in their cells for an average of 107 hours a week. After the introduction of the Standard Core Day across the Prison Service prisoners in the High Security Estate spend an extra two hours a week, or 1 per cent. of their time, locked up.

The Prison Service has looked carefully at how it can make efficiencies in the operation of prisons to support the Department's efficiency plans. The standardisation of the core day delivers efficiencies, improves consistency of regime delivery across the affected establishments and helps to maximise the access prisoners have to activities when they are running without compromising the running of safe, decent and secure establishments.

Prison Sentences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) under 18 years, (ii) 18 to 20 years and (iii) 21 years and over were serving indeterminate sentences for public protection on the latest date for which figures are available. [271975]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the numbers of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection on 24 April 2009. The table includes those subject to imprisonment for public protection (IPP) and young prisoners subject to detention for public protection (DPP). The table also includes the 104 offenders of this type who are located in a secure psychiatric hospital.

Serving IPPs and DPPs on 24 April 2009

Age range	*(a) Men*	*(b) Women*	*Subtotals*
(i) Under 18 years	35	[1]Fewer than 5	36
(ii) 18 to 20 years	370	[1]Fewer than 5	372
(iii) 21 years and over	4,696	142	4,838
Total			5,246

[1] We have withheld exact numbers because to provide the information at this level could identify individuals.

These figures were drawn from the NOMS IPP database. The database is updated every other month, based on data provided by establishments. As with any large scale recording system, the database is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Changes introduced by the CJIA 2008 included a minimum tariff of two years below which IPPs cannot be given, except where offenders have committed extremely serious crimes in the past.

These changes will ensure better use of the all the sentences available to the courts.

In January 2008, a new streamlined process was introduced for assessing and managing IPP offenders through the implementation of offender management for IPPs. The new process will ensure that appropriate sentence plans are drawn up and implemented for offenders, without undermining public protection.

Prison Sentences: Swine Flu

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects of the outbreak of swine influenza on *(a)* levels of sentencing to custody by magistrates courts and Crown courts and *(b)* the safe management of adult prisons, young offender institutions and secure training centres; [274325]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the outbreak of swine influenza on the provision of healthcare in *(a)* adult prisons, *(b)* young offender institutions and *(c)* secure training centres. [273824]

Mr. Straw: Contingency planning for coping with the effects of a flu pandemic on the justice system including prisons and places of detention, has been underway for several years. Sentencing will continue to be a matter for judges taking account of individual circumstances and sentencing guidelines.

Protecting the public and ensuring the smooth running of the justice system is paramount and every effort would be made to ensure those who pose a risk continue to be appropriately dealt with.

In 2006, all prisons were instructed, through Prison Service Instruction PSI (29/2006), to develop contingencies plans in the event of pandemic influenza. Prison senior clinical staff were to be involved at all stages of planning. The plans were to be signed off as fit for purpose by area managers. The governor was required to establish links with the local health protection unit (HPU) and the primary care trust (PCT) to finalise arrangements for antiviral access and infection control management, and to adapt local community policies to a prison setting.

At the outset of this swine flu outbreak governors were reminded to review these plans and ensure they are up to date and capable of being acted on if the situation calls for it. This is to be done in consultation with local primary care trusts and in line with the current PSI.

A revised version of the Prison Service Instruction is currently in draft. It provides further advice on key areas including infection control, UK pandemic phases, detail on key issues to be covered in contingency plans including supply lines and participation in local resilience fora, along with advice on human resources matters.

Prisons: Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on prisoner re-education in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [273840]

Mr. Hanson: In terms of money spent on education and training in prisons for those two years, £156 million was spent in financial year 2006-07 and £168 million was spent in financial year 2007-08, funded from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills via provider contracts commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council. Spending on offender learning, commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council, now stands at over £175 million (2008-09 financial year), for juvenile, young and adult offenders—almost a threefold increase since 2001.

The Learning and Skills Council also spent a further £30 million in European Social Funding for the two calendar years 2006 and 2007, and established a £13.9 million budget from EQUAL funding for the period December 2006 to March 2008 to meet additional provision for offenders both in custody and in the community.

In addition training for prisoners is undertaken, mainly by Prison Service staff, whilst prisoners work or are engaged in various areas such as prison industries, catering, physical education, land based activities, industrial cleaning and laundries. The central costs of the training elements of these, mainly production functions, are not kept centrally.

Probation: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation posts are planned for *(a)* Dyfed Powys, *(b)* Gwent, *(c)* North Wales and *(d)* South Wales probation areas in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [273755]

Mr. Hanson: It is not yet possible to predict final figures for 2009-10. As no final decisions have been taken on budgets for subsequent years, it is also not possible to provide accurate staffing projections for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Responsibility for resourcing levels ultimately lies with each probation board or trust as they are the employers of probation staff. It is for them to take the action necessary at a local level to ensure they can deliver the required service within available resources.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel serving in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq are residents of (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) the Republic of Ireland. [272893]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the residential location of armed forces personnel are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel from each of the armed forces are serving in Afghanistan. [273000]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of UK service personnel in Afghanistan fluctuates on a daily basis but there are currently approximately 8,300 UK service personnel serving in Afghanistan. Due to the current deployment of 19 Light Brigade approximately 80 per cent. of these personnel are from the Army and approximately 10 per cent. each from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force respectively.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward plans to improve liaison between his Department and the Department for International Development on reconstruction in Afghanistan. [273672]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* Ministers and Officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Department for International Development (DFID), and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) meet regularly to discuss the UK's policy in Afghanistan. This cooperation is replicated on the ground by the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team which integrates the efforts of DFID, the FCO and the military Task Force Commander, with international partners, in a comprehensive approach to security, reconstruction and development.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome of his Department's challenge was to the inquest verdict in the case of Ronald George Maddison which the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State announced in the written ministerial statement of 21 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 168WS; and if he will make a statement. [274726]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Judicial Review was scheduled to take place on 13 February 2006 in the High Court. However before the hearing was due to commence, Counsel representing the Maddison family offered a possible resolution of the issues to be addressed, which the Ministry of Defence found acceptable. The presiding judges, set to hear the Judicial Review, endorsed the terms of the agreement. This therefore concluded matters.

Armed Forces: Housing

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of *(a)* service family accommodation and *(b)* service single living accommodation for armed forces personnel in Scotland; and if he will make a statement; [274595]

(2) how many and what percentage of *(a)* service family accommodation and *(b)* service single living accommodation properties in (a) the UK and (b) Scotland there were in each grade in each of the last five years. [274593]

Mr. Kevan Jones: UK service family accommodation was at the following standard for condition (SfC) in each of the last five years.

	April 2004		*April 2005*		*April 2006*		*April 2007*		*July 2008*	
	Properties	*Percentage*	*Properties*	*Percentage*	*Properties*	*Percentage*	*Properties*	*Percentage*	*Properties*	*Percentage*
S1fC	25,276	50	26,426	53	28,796	57	29,691	59	28,354	59
S2fC	22,215	44	20,774	41	18,950	38	17,910	36	17,414	36
S3fC	3,083	6	2,792	6	2,309	5	2,165	5	2,098	4
S4fC	146	≤1	195	≤1	159	≤1	145	≤1	109	1
Total	50,720		50,187		50,214		49,911		47,975	

Figures for Scotland across the last five years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, as at March 2009, SFA in Scotland was at the following SfC:

	Properties	*Percentage*
S1fC	3,120	97
S2fC	102	3
S3fC	5	≤1

In the past two years, single living accommodation, in the UK and Scotland was at the following grade, which is an assessment of the physical condition and scale of the accommodation, but excludes environmental and locational factors.

	July 2007				March 2008			
	UK		Scotland		UK		Scotland	
	Bed-spaces	Percentage	Bed-spaces	Percentage	Bed-spaces	Percentage	Bed-spaces	Percentage
Grade 1	35,388	26	2,576	32	34130	25	2,580	33
Grade 2	17,398	13	1,576	20	19,180	14	1,560	20
Grade 3	23,346	17	1,691	21	21,460	16	1,680	21
Grade 4	62,212	44	2,128	27	62,460	45	2,010	26
Total	138,344		7,948		137,420		7,830	

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Due to a legacy of decades of underinvestment, in Scotland and elsewhere, not all service accommodation is of the high standard that service personnel and their families deserve. We are addressing this and in addition to the significant investment in recent years, we plan to spend over £3 billion in the next decade to improve and upgrade accommodation worldwide.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on upgrading accommodation for serving personnel and their families in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland since 2000. [274599]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the right hon. and learned Member with the information requested because it is not held centrally and will take more time to collate and verify.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation properties in Scotland have been declared unfit for habitation. [274600]

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation properties in the UK have been declared unfit for habitation. [274777]

Mr. Kevan Jones: While all occupied properties are considered to be of a habitable standard, properties can be uninhabitable for various reasons, such as awaiting demolition or undergoing major repair, modernisation or upgrade work.

The situation changes frequently and therefore detailed numbers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to review the functions of the war pension committees. [274688]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A review of the war pensions committees is currently underway. The review is being conducted in consultation with the committees and other stakeholders and an initial symposium was held on 25 March 2009.

Armed Forces: Resignations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the voluntary outflow rate from each *(a)* service and *(b)* rank of the armed forces was in each of the last three years. [274980]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The voluntary outflow rates of officers and of other ranks from each service are published in tables 3-8 of Tri-Service Publication 05 (TSP05). TSP05 is published monthly; the current March 2009 publication includes time series back to 1998-99 and can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=60&date=2009-04-28&pubType=all&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&dateOption=1

Voluntary outflow rates for each rank have not been compiled and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Copies of TSP05 are also available from the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Swine Flu

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what preparations his Department is making to ensure that sufficient military forces are available to participate in civil contingency operations in relation to the swine influenza outbreak. [275048]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK's preparations are led by the Department of Health, involving all relevant Government Departments and agencies including the MOD. There are currently no plans for military involvement in civil contingency operations in relation to the swine influenza outbreak.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were enrolled in an officer training corps course at each university in each year since 1997. [274898]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table illustrates the numbers commencing training at university officer training corps in each year since 1997.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Aberdeen	65	72	51	67	80	49	53	92	64	82	65	45

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Birmingham	76	66	69	107	75	46	97	82	78	100	98	64
Bristol	73	77	82	78	83	72	86	87	64	83	79	59
Cambridge	98	95	102	66	82	107	84	72	91	81	78	53
East Midlands	93	72	75	97	83	91	76	89	94	88	79	61
Edinburgh	92	67	90	91	92	92	65	99	73	93	109	68
Exeter	88	76	86	78	89	89	122	93	102	92	77	55
Glasgow	58	49	63	62	69	93	73	62	62	78	62	48
Leeds	74	71	80	66	94	97	134	115	82	130	87	72
Liverpool	83	79	73	87	85	83	98	91	89	88	76	49
London	163	156	152	195	200	181	163	140	171	162	200	154
Manchester	78	79	72	85	75	75	75	76	91	100	75	58
Northumbria	70	67	66	75	84	97	88	91	73	78	86	52
Oxford	84	98	81	100	78	109	102	110	120	117	101	94
Queen's (Northern Ireland)	95	64	67	79	63	62	70	58	66	80	86	45
Sheffield	85	96	83	112	98	77	130	104	89	90	117	63
Southampton	81	69	63	100	107	105	113	105	93	117	86	49
Tayforth	76	62	52	103	100	99	125	98	100	103	80	73
Wales	86	85	106	93	98	95	101	139	104	114	98	62

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the Defence Training Review contract over the next five financial years. [275059]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The most recent estimate of the cost of the Defence Training Review (DTR) contract over the next five financial years, after expected contract signature in 2010, is £1.8 billion. It should be noted that the vast majority of this figure represents the operating costs that we carry today within the existing training establishment.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for duty strengths of each regiment of the (i) Royal Armoured Corps, (ii) Royal Corps of Signals, (iii) Royal Engineers and (iv) Royal Logistics Corps is. [275044]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Clyde Submarine Base

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Faslane primary effluent barge to return to service; and what plans he has for its replacement in the long-term. [273884]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The primary effluent barge was retired in February 2008 and will not be returned to service.

Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde is currently undertaking a future waste management options study to determine the long-term plans for radioactive waste management. Primary effluent tanks will continue to collect liquid waste in the interim.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for a new facility to handle radioactive waste at Faslane. [273885]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Work is currently being undertaken to determine the future waste management plans at Faslane, the results of which will inform the design and development of a new capability.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* protocols will apply to the discharge of radioactive coolant from submarines at the new Astute jetty. [273886]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The procedures and protocols for the discharge of radioactive coolant from submarines at the new Astute jetty will be similar to those in place for current berths. Primary effluent tanks will be used for the discharge of radioactive liquid effluent, a process that is regulated and inspected by both the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator.

Defence: Employment

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Cornwall are employed in the defence sector. [271598]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The latest available figures for the numbers of MOD civilian and service personnel who are directly employed at MOD establishments or bases located in Devon, Cornwall and the unitary authority of Plymouth are provided in the following table.

	All MOD service personnel	MOD civilian personnel	Total
South West of which:	30,980	17,600	56,480
Plymouth	7,380	1,200	8,580
Devon	4,120	410	4,530
Cornwall	1,640	630	4,280

The Ministry of Defence does not produce estimates at county or unitary authority level for the number of people employed in UK industry and commerce in companies that receive contracts directly from MOD or in the supply chain supporting such contracts.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in the South West of England work in the defence sector. [273991]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The latest available estimate for those people employed directly in industry and commerce in the South West of England in those companies that receive contracts directly from MOD is approximately 37,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

It is not possible to prepare estimates for indirect employment due to the quality of the underlying administrative data, so this could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

In addition a further 17,600 civilian and 38,880 service personnel are directly employed at MOD establishments or bases located in the South West.

Defence: Information and Communications Technology

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual number of terminal installations completed for the Defence Information Infrastructure programme is. [274968]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence intends to design, install and run 140,000 terminals on the Defence Information Infrastructure system, supporting some 300,000 users at more than 2,000 sites. As at 30 April 2009, some 70,000 terminals had been installed.

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original forecast in-service date at main gate and *(b)* actual in-service date of each post-main gate Category (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C procurement project was in each of the last two years. [275022]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following table gives the actual in-service date for category A, B and C post main gate projects in each of the last two financial years for which results have been published together with the originally forecast in-service date at main gate:

In service date forecast at main gate	*Actual in service date*	*Category*	*Project title*
June 2006	April 2006	B	General health and usage monitoring system
October 2007	May 2006	C	JACAMAR—Secure radio system
December 2002	June 2006	A	Sting Ray Life Extension and Capability Upgrade
July 2004	July 2006	A	Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary)
July 2006	September 2006	B	Javelin Follow-On Buy
October 2006	September 2006	C	Chinook Coherence
October 2005	October 2006	B	TROJAN and TITAN
March 2006	October 2006	C	Thermal Sighting System for the Self Propelled High Velocity Missile Weapon System
July 2002	January 2007	C	Saturn for Lynx Mk8
March 2007	March 2007	B	Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System
March 2007	March 2007	B	Royal Navy Joint Tactical Information Distribution System
July 2006	March 2007	C	Future fire control system
December 2007	June 2007	C	Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corp (ARRC)—Command and Control Information System
September 2007	July 2007	A	PICADIO
August 2008	September 2007	C	Unmanned Counter Mine Capability
November 2006	November 2007	B	PANTHER Command and Liaison Vehicle (CLV)
May 2009	January 2008	B	Defence HF Communications Service
January 2009	January 2008	B	High Velocity Missile Procurement (Tranche 4)
August 2006	February 2008	C	Fire Control Battlefield Information Systems Application
September 2005	February 2008	A	Support Vehicle
May 2008	March 2008	C	Tomahawk Block IV Weapon System

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274556]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The diverse defence estate includes office, technical and living accommodation. Building maintenance is covered by a number of contractual arrangements both in the UK and overseas, including a number of private finance initiatives (PFI). For these reasons, the cost of building maintenance as distinct from such things as the maintenance of runways and other elements of the estate, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD's annual accounts include property management costs, which are mostly maintenance but exclude those falling under PFI arrangements.

These figures are provided in the following table.

	£ million
2003-04	1,393
2004-05	1,309
2005-06	1,367
2006-07	1,258
2007-08	1,523

The final figures for 2008-09 are currently being prepared and are subject to audit by the National Audit Office.

Departmental Consultants

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on external consultants for services delivered in 2008-09. [274977]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not yet verified but is intended for future publication and will be placed in the Library of the House before the summer recess, as is our usual practice.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274527]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's complaints handling policy is based on the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's publication "Principles of Good Complaint Handling" and covers all complaints irrespective of how they are received. There are separate and published points of contact for complaints about specific activities, for example pensions or low flying, and our experience is that complaints are most effectively handled at the initial point of contact. Our policy sets out how complaints should be handled and, should it be necessary, explains how an internal review should be offered and conducted. Finally, we offer independent internal reviews and will explain to the complainant how they are able to take their complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274508]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on conference and banqueting services must be necessary, appropriate, cost effective and an admissible charge to public funds.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on entertainment and hospitality in the last two financial years. [275011]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD spent £4.2 million on entertainment in 2007-08. The information for 2008-09 is intended for future publication in our annual report and accounts before the summer recess, as is our usual practice.

The aim of official entertainment is to support MOD objectives, facilitate wider public understanding of the armed forces, enhance professional contacts, further British security policy interests and meet defence diplomacy objectives. Official entertainment may be used to support management objectives or enhance esprit de corps.

European Fighter Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of progress in the ordering of Tranche 3 Eurofighter Typhoons. [274896]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Negotiations with partner nations and industry are continuing on the Typhoon Tranche 3 contract and decisions will be taken once these negotiations are complete.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an estimate of the number of British veterans of the Korean War who have not received each medal for military service in that war for which they are eligible. [274356]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 927W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what the established procedures for the gifting of equipment to Iraq are. [274639]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 888W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

Israel: Military Aid

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much aid was given to Israel for military purposes between 1997 and 2008. [273849]

Mr. Hutton: MOD gave no aid to Israel for military purposes between 1997 and 2008. We do, however, offer places on defence education courses which are paid for by Israel on an attendance basis. Our defence relationship with Israel is in line with HMG's policy in support of the Middle East Peace Process of having a balanced relationship with the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Military Aid: Defence Equipment

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment his Department has authorised the armed forces to gift to other nations in each of the last five years. [273584]

Mr. Hutton: Gifts valued above the MOD's delegated gifting authority (above £100,000 in 2004-05 and above £250,000 from August 2006 onwards) have been approved by Parliament through a departmental minute are set out as follows.

We also publish some details of such gifts in the note on losses and special payments in our Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House and which are available on line in the MOD's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

A fully comprehensive list of gifts could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Surplus assets are normally disposed of through sale to secure the best value for the taxpayer. Where surplus assets are disposed of as gifts, this must produce a positive benefit for the MOD or UK security interests.

2008-09

There have been no parliamentary approved gifts in this year.

2007-08

49 critical Jaguar spares and a Challenger 2 tank Loader Drill Trainer to the Government of Oman. (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 24 April 2007).

15 Up-armoured light protected vehicles (High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) and a support package to the Government of Afghanistan. (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 10 July 2007).

25 field ambulances to the Government of Afghanistan. (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 4 March 2008).

2006-07

Infrastructure construction projects and equipment to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 18 April 2006), comprising:

Iraq Police Service (IPS) Emergency Battalion HQ and Barracks, Al Muthanna.

Department for Border Enforcement (DBE) Commando Emergency Battalion Barracks, Basrah.

Collocated Department for Border Enforcement/Facilities Protection Services HQ precinct.

90 Dskha 12.7 mm heavy machine guns (10 for Iraqi Army Rapid Reaction Company and 80 for DBE) with ancillaries.

6,300 9 mm pistols for IPS, with ancillaries.

85 PKC medium machine guns (50 for IPS and 35 for DBE) with ancillaries.

12 Dragunov sniper rifles, with ancillaries.

20,500 helmets (13,000 for IPS and 7,500 for DBE).

14,500 pairs of boots (for IPS).

Up to 50 type 110 Land Rovers and a support package for the Government of Lebanon. (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 9 October 2006).

Non-lethal military equipment to the Government of Nepal (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 12 February 2007), comprising:

Two Revolution wheelbarrows.

One Cyclops wheelbarrow spares package.

Seven explosive ordinance disposal disrupters and 35 boxes of cartridges.

One Mk7B spares package.

One Mk7B Training package.

10 bomb suits and helmets.

80 de-mining vests and helmets.

10 metal detectors.

20 Cable detectors.

10 firing cables.

10 firing devices.

One service support package.

One training visit.

Five sets of IT equipment.

Shipping costs.

£500,000 cash gift to the Government of Afghanistan to allow them to equip an Afghan Territorial Force in Helmand province. (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 30 October 2006).

Non-lethal equipment to the Palestinian Presidential Guard (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 8 February 2007), comprising:

Helmets.

Portable accommodation.

Field lighting.

Communications equipment.

Body armour.

Vehicles.

Infrastructure assets at Camp Smitty in Al Muthanna, and at Camp Driftwood in Basrah Province to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 21 June 2006), comprising:

Accommodation.

Ablutions.

Dining facilities.

Various force protection defences (watchtowers etc.).

Infrastructure assets at Camp Abu Naji in Maysan Province to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 28 June 2006), comprising:

Accommodation.

Ablutions.

Dining facilities.

Various force protection defences (watchtowers etc.).

2005-06

Military equipment and infrastructure to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 11 January 2006), comprising:

Tactical Support Unit (TSU) construction, Maysan.

Police Station construction, Al Amarah, Maysan.

Department of Border Enforcement (DBE) Provincial HQ construction, Maysan.

DBE Provincial HQ construction, Al Muthanna.

Iraqi Police Service (IPS) Academy extension construction, Al Muthanna.

TSU expansion construction, Basrah.

Rapid Reaction Company Barracks construction, Basrah.

Refurbishment of five police stations, Basrah.

Warren site utilities and building refurbishment, Basrah.

'Ring of Steel' permanent vehicle check points, Basrah.

Refurbishment of five police stations, Al Muthanna.

415 IPS patrol cars.

319 IPS 4x4 patrol cars.

734 Motorola GM160 VHP radios with microphone and antenna (including delivery to Shaibah Logistics Base).

Military equipment and infrastructure to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 12 October 2005), comprising:

Barracks for 10th Division Iraqi Army HQ near Az Zubayr.

Barracks for 3/1/10 Battalion (on the same sight).

Iraqi Army Central Issues Facility (storehouse) at Shaibah.

211 pick-up vehicles.

12 water trucks.

9 Flat-bed trucks.

211 high-frequency radios.

16 high frequency base station fixed installation kits.

Networked data/voice capability (Local Area Network).

475,182 Operational Ration Packs to the Government of the United States of America following Hurricane Katrina. (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 6 February 2006).

Non-lethal military equipment to the Government of Nepal (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 25 May 2005—replaced withdrawn proposal originally notified on 20 January 2005), comprising:

Two Revolution wheelbarrows.

Two Cyclops wheelbarrows.

12 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) disrupters and 200 boxes of cartridges.

4 Recoilless EOD disrupters and 100 boxes of cartridges.

10 mini electronic exploders.

Five metal detectors.

Four EBEX wire detectors.

One spectrum analyser.

One set of IT equipment.

10 sets of digital photography equipment.

Two EOD vans.

2004-05

Military equipment to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 10 November 2004), comprising:

3,200 AK47 assault rifles.

2 million rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition.

4,200 sets of body armour.

2,500 helmets.

1,000 sets of public order equipment including riot shields, helmets with visors, leather gloves, shin and knee protectors, flame retardant overalls and batons.

Military equipment and infrastructure to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 2 December 2004), comprising:

3,300 AK 47s.

3,300,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition.

20,858 sets of body armour.

7,444 Kevlar helmets.

1,000 sets of public order equipment, including helmets, batons, shields, knee and elbow guards etc.

308 HF Radios.

992 Binoculars.

69 GPS.

42 GPS with radio.

12 sets of urban operations equipment.

Iraq National Guard divisional maintenance facility for armoured personnel carriers.

4 ranges.

4 provincial logistic support centres for the Iraqi Police Service (IPS).

3 provincial HQs for the Department of Border Enforcement.

Buildings for specialist IPS facilities, such as a forensic lab and a ballistics lab.

Medical stores.

Refurbishment of 24 boats.

Military equipment and infrastructure to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 15 December 2004), comprising:

450,000 rounds of AK47 blank ammunition for training purposes.

500,000 of PKM (light machine gun) blank ammunition for training purposes.

438 under slung grenade launchers (UGL) for AK 47s.

18,400 UGL rounds.

36,800 UGL training rounds.

5666 9mm pistols.

3000 personal radio handsets.

50 operations room radios.

200 vehicle radios.

Non-lethal military equipment to the Government of Sierra Leone, comprising a communications system and three batches of Troop Carrying Vehicles (Bedford 4 tonne equivalents). (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 23 June 2004).

622.385 tonnes of 120mm Challenger 1 tank ammunition to the Government of Jordan. (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 12 October 2004).

Non-lethal military equipment to the Palestinian Authority, comprising Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) protective clothing, EOD detection and disruption equipment, IT equipment and four 4x4 vehicles equipped for EOD. (Notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 20 December 2004).

Non-lethal military equipment to the Government of Nepal (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 6 May 2004), comprising:

Two Short Take off and Landing BN2T Islander aircraft.

425 ICOM UHF radios and accessories.

10 base stations and 50 repeater stations.

Wheelbarrow MK8 Plus II explosive ordinance disposal unit.

Wheelbarrow Mk7 spares.

Bomb disposal equipment including 6 disposal suits, 1000 cartridges L2A1, 1000 midi cartridges, 6 electronic exploders and 4 x-ray machines.

Ordnance search equipment including, cable avoidance tools, metal detectors, portable searchlights, infra red filters, search soda breads, endoscope search kits, rechargeable heavy duty combi drills and ultrasonic thickness gauges.

Military equipment to the Government of Iraq (notified to the House of Commons in a departmental minute of 25 January 2005), comprising:

79 refurbished armoured Penman Hotspur Land Rovers.

2 luggage x-ray machines, 3 archway metal detectors, 27 hand-held metal detectors and 15 under vehicle search mirrors.

774 medium machine guns (PKMs), 5 million rounds of ammunition for PKMs and 1150 light machine guns (RPKs).

Navy: Drug Seizures

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what drug seizures were made by Royal Navy vessels since 1997; where the seizures took place; what the value of each seizure was; and if he will make a statement. [271390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his Department published its report on Future Radioactive Waste Management Capability, RWMF/URD/001; and what representations have been received on the report since that date. [272722]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Future Radioactive Waste Management Capability—User Requirement Document was published within the Department in August 2008 and was provided to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency in September 2008.

No representations have been received on the report since it was issued.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much liquid radioactive waste has been discharged into the sea loch at Faslane in each year since it first hosted Polaris nuclear submarines; and whether he has received recent representations from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency on the matter. [272723]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Officials are currently in the process of collating the information held by the Department; I will write to the hon. Member once this work is complete.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the extent to which the recommendations in the report Assessment of Arrangements to Comply with Best Practicable Means for the Handling, Movement, Processing, Storage and Disposal of Radioactive Waste at HM Naval Base Clyde, Faslane have been complied with; and upon what data his assessment is based. [273541]

Mr. Quentin Davies: An internal assessment of the report was completed by officials at HMNB Clyde during March 2009. The majority of the recommendations arising from the report have now been implemented and we expect that outstanding issues will be addressed by the end of September 2009. Officials continue to work with the various regulatory authorities to ensure they are content with the work that is being undertaken.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken at HM Naval Base Clyde to ensure that requirements on waste prevention and minimisation have been incorporated into waste generation procedures and training at the base. [273543]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Waste generation is always considered during the planning of any nuclear work, and efforts are made to minimise the rate of production and the quantity of waste produced. Initial and refresher training is provided to both submarine and base staff that specifically addresses the requirement to prevent and reduce radioactive waste. Waste disposals from HM Naval Base Clyde continue to be well below the agreed disposal limits.

Somalia: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel of each rank are stationed in the Gulf of Aden. [272906]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The breakdown by rank of Royal Navy personnel who are stationed or whose tasking may require them to be stationed in the Gulf of Aden is provided in the following table.

Rank	*Number*
Captain (RN)	1
Commander	3
Lieutenant Commander	8
Lieutenant	15
Captain (RM)	1
Sub-Lieutenant	2
Warrant Officer	4
Chief Petty Officer	21
Colour Sergeant (RM)	1
Petty Officer	33
Sergeant (RM)	1
Leading Hand	43
Lance Corporal (RM)	3
Able Rate	79
Corporal (RM)	1
Marine (RM)	5

Special Reconnaissance Regiment: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Special Reconnaissance Regiment *(a)* have served in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months and *(b)* are serving there. [272861]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely, to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Special Forces.

Submarines

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what locations will be included in the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Submarine Dismantling Project; what timetable he has set for the conduct of the assessment; and against what criteria the assessment will be made. [274640]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) will consider location options for both the submarine dismantling facility and the interim storage of the resulting Intermediate-Level Waste (ILW). In both cases, the SEA proposes to consider the following types of location:

(i) Conduct activity at a Green-Field (not previously developed) location;

(ii) Conduct activity at a Brown-Field (previously developed) location; and

(iii) Conduct activity at an existing nuclear licensed/ authorised location.

It is the intention for the SEA report to be completed before spring 2010, following a period of public consultation.

Assessment will be made against the criteria detailed in EU Directive 2001/42/EC 'On the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment' and the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No 1633)'. It should be noted that the latter document normally applies only to England but, in line with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Communities and Local Government) guidance, is also applicable to those activities with a UK-wide remit.

Warships: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual manning strength for each (i) frigate and (ii) destroyer in the Royal Navy is. [275052]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 127W and on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1257W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 13 May 2009

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273788]

Paul Goggins: The costs requested for the Department, excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs, in each of the last five years, are shown in the following table.

£

	Internal	*External*
2004-05	0	841
2005-06	318	26,149
2006-07	0	22,046
2007-08	665	23,868
2008-09	698	8,548

Community Safety Unit (CSU) accounts for around 50 per cent. of the costs. CSU purchased items to support campaigns that had been running from 2005-06, such as the domestic burglary campaign. CSU's 2008-09 costs relate more to Community Safety Week and ongoing community safety events rather than major campaigns, hence the fall in spend.

SCOTLAND

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, Central (Jeremy Willott) of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 978W, on departmental ICT, what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers on steps to reduce carbon emissions from ICT systems in his Department. [274903]

Ann McKechin: My officials are in regular communication with their counterparts in the Scottish Government about the information and communications technology system (SCOTS) which the Scotland Office shares with the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government are complying with the same standards as those set out in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274572]

Ann McKechin: The Office does not record this information in the form requested.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's policy is on the practice of holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. [268538]

Ann McKechin: My Office has not laid down a policy on holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. Occasional staff events off site are approved by the Director of the Scotland Office, when there is a clear benefit to the business to be gained. Whether Government or hotel accommodation is used, it must be fit for purpose and provide value for money taking account of the nature of the event.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Blackwater Estuary: Pollution

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the effects on the marine ecology of the Blackwater Estuary of chlorination of water inlet and outlet pipes at Bradwell power station, with particular reference to the native oyster population and (ii) changes to such effects arising from the construction of a new nuclear power station at Bradwell. [275213]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has neither commissioned nor evaluated any such research. However, analysis of samples of cooling water discharges undertaken by the Environment Agency has not identified any significant issue regarding chlorine.

Detailed proposals for developing a new nuclear power station at Bradwell have yet to come forward. As a result, the Environment Agency is unable to comment on any potential changes on the marine ecology resulting from new construction at the site.

Common Fisheries Policy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. [274609]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I exchanged correspondence with Commissioner Joe Borg of the European Commission on the reform of the common fisheries policy in April this year. I presented the UK's early thoughts on reform of the common fisheries policy at the April Agriculture and Fisheries Council where the European Commission presented its Green Paper on reform of the common fisheries policy.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days at locations other than departmental premises. [268464]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Each business area in DEFRA has a devolved learning and development budget which is used to fund locally arranged training for staff. This can include staff away days and team building exercises.

Managers have discretion to decide whether or not to hold away days and, if so, whether these should be held at locations other than departmental premises. In exercising this discretion, managers will be expected to ensure that value for money considerations are fully taken into account, and to evaluate all alternative options.

Fisheries: Expenditure

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by the Marine and Fisheries Agency on fisheries enforcement in each of the last 10 years. [274279]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine Fisheries Agency was created on 1 October 2005 and was renamed the Marine and Fisheries Agency on 1 April 2007, when it took on marine licensing responsibilities.

A summary of the expenditure on fisheries enforcement over the life of the agency to date is as follows. The figures for 2004-05 is a broad estimate from the comparative figures in the annual report and accounts.

	£ million
2008-09	12.1
2007-08	12.3
2006-07	12.3
2005-06	12.2
2004-05	12.2

Recycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he has considered to increase levels of plastic and glass bottle recycling; if he will bring forward proposals to promote bottle return schemes in shops; and if he will make a statement; [273465]

(2) what measures he has considered to increase levels of plastic and glass bottle recycling; what consideration he has given to tax incentives for *(a)* companies who recycle, *(b)* companies who do not and *(c)* the promotion of bottle return schemes in shops; and if he will make a statement. [273380]

Jane Kennedy: The Government provide incentives and support for recycling by companies, for example through advisory services provided by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). In addition the landfill tax discourages landfill and encourages the recycling and recovery of wastes.

The Government also provide capital grant and other funding for the demonstration and pre-commercial deployment of low carbon and renewable energy technologies under the Environmental Transformation Fund, which has a budget of £400 million over the 2008-11 period. The Government also provide support for renewables through market drivers such as the renewables obligation, which is expected to be worth around £1 billion a year by 2010.

In December 2008 DEFRA published a report into packaging deposit systems and the role they might play in increasing recovery and recycling of single use drink containers (plastic, aluminium and glass) in the UK. The report was completed in consultation with a range of industry stakeholders and reviewed deposit systems in four other EU member states to assess the implications of introducing such a system in the UK.

The report concluded that while deposit schemes would increase recycling, alternative schemes could achieve the same or better results at a lower cost, as the relative cost of introducing a deposit scheme system was high. For example, the deposit scheme operating in Germany costs three times as much per container as a household collection system.

However, the Government are keeping an open mind in regard to deposit schemes and 'reverse vending', where vending machines take used bottles and cans for recycling and usually give a reward such as supermarket loyalty points or vouchers. A number of reverse vending systems are being set up by major retailers and the performance of these systems is being monitored.

Rivers: Pollution

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for river pollution were brought by the Environment Agency in each of the last five years; and how many of those were successful. [274227]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The table shows the number of successful prosecutions for water pollution under section 85 of the Water Resources Act 1991 between 2004 and 2008. This information comes from the Environment Agency's National Enforcement Database.

	Rivers		*All controlled waters*[1]	
	Total	*Successful*	*Total*	*Successful*
2004	57	56	190	187
2005	53	51	235	231
2006	44	43	189	184
2007	44	42	183	177
2008	37	36	148	146

[1] Under the Water Resources Act 1991, 'controlled waters' are defined as rivers, lakes, groundwaters or tidal and coastal waters up to three nautical miles out to sea.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

E-mail and Intranet

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on how many occasions PICT has shut down the parliamentary *(a)* e-mail system and *(b)* intranet (i) wholly and (ii) partially in the last 12 months; and what the reasons for the shut-down were in each case. [273447]

Nick Harvey: The information is as follows:

(a) Mailboxes are stored on any one of five mail servers. The closure of any one of these servers would impact only on those users with mailboxes stored on it. Each server contains approximately 2,500 mailboxes. For the purpose of the answer, the closure of an individual server is reported as (ii) partially.

(i) The e-mail service has not been wholly shut down for the last 12 months.

(ii) The e-mail service has been partially shutdown on the following occasions in the last 12 months:

29-31 August 2008: 41 hours—one server failed due to software problems;

29-30 October 2008: 11 hours 30 minutes—one server failed due to software problems;

10-11 March 2009: 15 hours 30 minutes—one server failed due to a backup failure;

1 April 2009: Two hours 35 minutes—one server failed due to anti-virus scanner failure;

4 April 2009: All servers were down at some point during an eight hour period for security patch installation.

(b) (i) The Parliamentary intranet has been wholly shutdown on the following occasions during the last 12 months:

24 January 2008: 45 minutes due to a domain name service (DNS) failure;

29 February 2008: One hour and 30 minutes due to a proxy server service failure.

The Parliamentary intranet has also been unavailable due to planned maintenance on the following occasions:

21 March 2009: nine hours due to emergency security patch requirements

(ii) The Parliamentary intranet has not been partially shutdown during the last 12 months.

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many complaints the House authorities have received about the speed or reliability of the parliamentary *(a)* e-mail system and *(b)* intranet in the last 12 months. [273448]

Nick Harvey: All complaints are logged in PICT's case management system. There is no record of a complaint being made for either of the above items in the past 12 months. This answer does not cover complaints about unavailability of broadband or VPN which may have resulted in loss of access to email or the internet.

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission who the internet service provider is for the parliamentary IT system; and whether the *(a)* provider and *(b)* system will be subject to the provisions of the UK Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2009. [272019]

Nick Harvey: The internet service provider for Parliament is Colt. The provisions of the UK Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2009 apply to all public communications providers to whom a written notice has been given by the Secretary of State. I understand that Colt has not received such a notice.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* longest tour interval for the (i) RAF Field Regiment, (ii) RAF Rapier, (iii) RAF Biological Detection and (iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment squadron was in the last five years. [275041]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The RAF average, shortest and longest tour intervals, i.e. the interval between overseas deployments, for the:

(i) RAF Regiment Field Squadrons are:

	Number of months
Average	12.5
Shortest	11.5
Longest	23

(ii) RAF Rapier. The RAF Rapier role was transferred to the Army in 2007 and the Squadrons disbanded or became field regiments. The squadron tour intervals between 2007 and 2004 are:

	Number of months
Average	7
Shortest	6
Longest	24

(iii) RAF Biological Detection. The unit has not been deployed as a formed unit since 2003.

(iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment do not deploy as a formed unit but augment Regiment Squadrons in Theatre when required.

Air Force: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of personnel serving with *(a)* each RAF Field Regiment and *(b)* each RAF aircraft type exceed the level set out in harmony guidelines. [275051]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The percentage of personnel exceeding the harmony guideline levels within the RAF field regiments are:

	Personnel breaching unit harmony guidelines (percentage)
RAF regiment non-officers[1]	40.8
RAF regiment officer[1]	27.4

[1] Refers to all RAF regiment personnel

The information requested in relation to separate RAF field regiments and for personnel serving with each RAF aircraft type is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Aviation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of flights *(a)* to and *(b)* from operational theatres have been (i) cancelled and (ii) delayed in each year since 2007; what the (A) location and (B) destination was of each such delayed flight; and what the (1) the length of time of and (2) reason for the delay was of each such delayed flight. [274978]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Defence Dental Service officers were based *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad, including those deployed on operations, in each of the last five years. [275019]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The numbers of Defence Dental Service Officers are provided in the following table, as at 1 April in each year stated. Figures as at 1 April 2009 have yet to be finalised.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
(a) UK					
Military	198	198	200	202	198
Civilian	42	42	42	37	37
(b) Abroad					
Military	52	52	50	56	56
Civilian	11	11	11	11	11

No civilian dental practitioners are deployed on operations. The uniformed defence dental service officers deployed on operations are drawn from the total cadre based in the UK and abroad as provided in the table. The numbers deployed on operations overseas in each calendar year were:

	Number of operations
2004	36
2005	36
2006	48
2007	47
2008	46

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average period of time taken to make repairs to a forces accommodation property after a call-out was in the latest period for which figures are available. [275021]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held centrally and will take a little time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Vector armoured vehicles have been bought by his Department since 2006; and how many such vehicles have been deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; [274741]

(2) how many Vector armoured vehicles are in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [274746]

Mr. Quentin Davies: 178 Vector Protected Patrol Vehicles have been delivered since 2006. Details on the number of Vectors deployed is being withheld for reasons of operational security.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of the second tranche of Mastiffs have been deployed to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [274972]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A number of Mastiff tranche 2 vehicles have already deployed to Afghanistan, however, none have deployed to Iraq. Details of the numbers deployed to Afghanistan are being withheld for reasons of operational security.

Army: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* inflow to and *(b)* outflow from each infantry battalion was in each year since 2001; [274975]

(2) what the *(a)* outflow and *(b)* voluntary outflow from each service was in each of the last three years, broken down by length of service. [275045]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Current inflow and outflow information for the Army is not segregated by infantry battalions and is only provided as an overall Army level due to the ongoing validation of data following the implementation of the new JPA system. Historical flow information broken down by each Infantry Battalion is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the inflow and outflow to the trained strength of the total Army can be found in Table 4 and 6 of Tri-Service Publication 4, UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page==48&thiscontent=20&date=2009-02-26&pubType=1&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&tabOption=3

Information on outflow and voluntary outflow from each service in the last three years broken down by length of service of armed forces personnel is currently unavailable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for task strength of each corps of the Army is. [274967]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the following table, the requirement figures requested are shown by the funded liability, as at 1 March 2009[1]:

Organisation	*Funded liability*	*Trained strength*
Royal Armoured Corps	5,690	5,680
Royal Artillery	7,510	7,240
Royal Engineers	9,370	[2]9,600
Royal Signals	8,440	7,750
Infantry	24,540	23,200
Army Air Corps	2,030	2,050
Royal Army Chaplains Department	150	130
Royal Logistics Corps	15,550	14,900
Royal Army Medical Corps	3,350	2,960
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9,900	9,460
Adjutant General's Corps		
Provost	1,650	1,710
Staff and Personnel Support	3,820	3,500
Military Provost Service	100	105
Educational and Training Services	315	343
Army Legal Services	109	103
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	220	290
Small Arms School Corps	140	150
Royal Army Dentistry Corps	440	380

Organisation	Funded liability	Trained strength
Intelligence Corps	1,610	1,450
Army Physical Training Corps	430	450
Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps	1,270	1,030
Corps of Army Music	890	810
Staff	720	850
Territorial Army	42,040	34,310

[1] Figures are rounded and exclude Gurkhas.
[2] Provisional.

As at 1 April, Infantry "Fit for Task" (interpreted as "Fit to Deploy") strength, excluding 1 Para and 1 Rifles, was 18,995. "Fit for Task" figures for other Corps are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Recruitment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department budgeted for overseas travel expenses for Army recruitment teams in each of the last 10 years. [275214]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Army recruiting teams (formerly known as regimental recruiting teams) operate in the United Kingdom and do not incur any costs for overseas travel.

However, the Army's overseas pre-selection teams, which travel to countries that have a high number of people who have applied to join the Army, have incurred the following costs for flights, transport and accommodation charges for staff:

Financial year	Cost (£)
2005-06	42,507
2006-07	78,639
2007-08	197,589
2008-09	140,566

Costs prior to 2005-06 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans badges have been issued to residents in Hendon to date. [272303]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not available and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women left the armed forces within six months of returning from service in (i) Iraq and (i) Afghanistan in 2007-08. [273313]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An estimate of the number of male and female UK armed forces personnel identified as having left Iraq or Afghanistan during 2007-08 and who were no longer in the armed forces six months later is provided in the following table.

Deployed country	Male	Female	Total
Afghanistan	530	10	540
Iraq	510	20	540
Total	1,040	40	1,080

Notes:
1. UK armed forces personnel includes all UK regular forces and Gurkhas but excludes all reservist personnel.
2. Data exclude repeat tours. Where individuals have deployed to both theatres in 2007-08 they are shown against the latest country of deployment.
3. Data include all personnel who left Iraq or Afghanistan in FY 2007-08 without returning thereafter and were no longer in the armed forces six months after having left Iraq or Afghanistan.
4. Data include all outflow reasons from the armed forces, including operational and non-operational fatalities.
5. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.
6. All data are provisional and subject to review.

Joint Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiment or battalion forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE); whether it is fully equipped; whether the present SLE is deployed; and when the future SLE will take over from the present SLE. [274973]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE), which is not currently deployed. The SLE is fully equipped in accordance with the Joint Rapid Reaction Force Directive and operational mounting instructions. The next SLE will be provided by the Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland, who will assume this role from 1 August 2009.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiment or battalion forms the Small Scale Contingent Battle Group; whether it is fully equipped; whether the present Small Scale Contingent Battle Group is deployed; and when the future Small Scale Contingent Battle Group will take over. [274974]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment forms the Small Scale Contingent Battle Group (SSCBG), which is not currently deployed. The SSCBG is equipped according to their readiness state. The next SSCBG will be provided by 42 Commando Royal Marines, who will assume this role from 1 December 2009.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for duty strength of each helicopter crew unit in each service is. [275046]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1148W. The information requested in relation to fit for duty strengths for helicopter crew is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Irish Regiment: Pay

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps his Department has taken to inform former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who received overpayment through the Special Capital Payment Scheme that they are not required to reimburse the scheme; [275105]

(2) on what date it was determined that former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who received overpayments from the Special Capital Payments Scheme would not be required to reimburse the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [275109]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Former members of the Royal Irish Regiment remain required to reimburse any overpayment of special capital payment they have received.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Greater London

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the number of flights over east London of the expansion of Heathrow Airport, with particular reference to Walthamstow. [274716]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The adding capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document in November 2007 contained indicative flight path maps. Figure 9 shows that in 2002 Walthamstow was overflown by an average of 298 arriving aircraft a day at a height of 6,000 to 3,000 feet. Figures 8a and 8b show that in 2030, with a fully utilised third runway, numbers are predicted to fall to an average of 260 aircraft a day at a height of more than 6,000 feet. This is because, with a third runway, arrivals would be spread between three runways and final approaches would be further out from the airport, so aircraft would be higher at the point where they are overflying Walthamstow. Walthamstow is not overflown by departing aircraft at a height of less than 4,000 feet and that would continue to be the case with a third runway.

Buses: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* buses and *(b)* coaches have been subject to recall under the provisions of EU Directive 2007/46/EC Article 32, and EU Directive 2001/95/EC since each such Directive came into force. [273908]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been 57 recall notifications involving 12,462 vehicles. We do not have figures separately relating to buses and coaches.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of changing UK safety standards for buses in the light of EU Directive 2007/46/EC, with particular reference to the testing of seating and buggy space for passenger safety. [274394]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has made no specific assessment of the merits of introducing EU Directive 2007/46/EC with respect to the safety of seating and buggy spaces on buses.

The seating requirements contained within current national regulations and those referred to in the new European directive are similar, but neither contains specific provisions for buggy spaces. General vehicle safety regulations would prevent a vehicle entering service which presented a clear hazard to its passengers or other road users.

Cycling: Mobile Phones

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to discourage the use of hand-held mobile phones while cycling. [274754]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport advises cyclists through publications such as The Highway Code to "avoid any distractions when cycling" and to "keep both hands on the handlebars except when signalling or changing gear"; Tales of the Road—A highway code for young road users—also advises "not to use a personal stereo or mobile phone whilst cycling".

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274517]

Mr. Hoon: All complaints to the Department for Transport, however they are received, are handled in accordance with the Department's published complaints procedure. This can be viewed on the internet at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/complaints

Departmental Databases

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* guidelines and *(b)* safeguards his Department has in place for the commercial licensing of its departmental databases. [271992]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The Department for Transport has published an Information Charter

www.dft.gov.uk/about/informationcharter

which sets out its commitment to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 in the use and disclosure of personal data. Similarly, each of our agencies has published its own Information Charter which can be viewed on their websites.

Furthermore, the Department has issued guidelines on the reuse of its information for commercial purposes. These make clear that, among other requirements: resources must not be diverted from core functions (including any resources involved in anonymisation/preparation of the information, or in setting up and running the scheme); a third party must not own the intellectual property rights; only anonymised data should be used for bulk sharing with private sector bodies; and that the production of the information is not outside core functions of DFT.

Two of the Department's Executive agencies, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and Driving Standards Agency (DSA), have a derogation from the Office of Public Sector Information to license the re-use of their information and are accredited under the Information Fair Trader Scheme. The information they sell is anonymised and the licences and corresponding contracts restrict how the data can be used.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of his Department's *(a)* centrally managed and *(b)* agency managed databases are commercially licensed for the use of private companies; to whom each is licensed; and how much revenue his Department has received for each licence. [271993]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* None of the central Department for Transport's databases or those of its agencies are commercially licensed in their entirety for the use of private companies. Two of our agencies, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the Driver Standards Agency (DSA), license information extracted from their databases for commercial re-use. This is done in accordance with their derogation from the Office of Public Sector Information and their accreditation under the Information Fair Trader Scheme.

DVLA sell extracts from their Vehicle Database, consisting of anonymised vehicle data. The following figures show DVLA's total annual income from this over the last five years.

	£000
2003-04	993
2004-05	1,093
2005-06	1,722
2006-07	2,051
2007-08	2,005
2008-09	[1]1,710

[1] Provisional

A list of the companies that DVLA have licensed to re-use this information has been placed in the House Library.

The individual income from these companies could not be calculated without incurring disproportionate cost.

DSA license the use of the Official DSA Theory Test question banks and 16 simulated Hazard Perception Test video clips for use by other publishers by way of a Crown Copyright Licence Agreement.

There are currently 140 licence holders, some of which are private companies and others are sole traders (e.g. driving instructors). Income derived from royalty-paying licence holders over the past four years is as follows:

	£000
2005-06	432
2006-07	352
2007-08	427
2008-09	392

A list of company royalty-paying licence holders has been placed in the House Library. The amounts paid by individual licence holders cannot be disclosed for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Driving: Elderly

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has conducted a cost-benefit analysis of testing drivers over the age of 70 years before their licences are renewed; and if he will make a statement. [273574]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No cost-benefit analysis of testing drivers over the age of 70 years before their licences are renewed, has been conducted.

Drivers must already meet specific health requirements when renewing a driving licence at age 70 and are required by law to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency at any time about the onset or worsening of any health condition that may affect safe driving.

The current arrangements are based on an assessment of the risks that an individual poses to road safety and as such are balanced and proportionate. They do not penalise those persons aged 70 and over who are medically fit to hold a licence.

Garage and Petrol Stations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of motor repairs made by *(a)* dealerships and *(b)* independent garages in the last 12 months. [274352]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

M6: Accidents

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents between junctions 14 and 16 of the M6 were reported in each of the last five years. [274371]

Paul Clark: The following table gives details of the number of accidents on the M6 between Junctions 14 and 16 from 2003 to 2007. The accidents are broken down by severity.

Over the whole period there were 247 accidents on this stretch of road, nine fatal, 15 serious, and 223 slight.

These are the most recent validated statistics available. Data collected since 2007 are currently undergoing validation.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Fatal	1	1	1	4	2	9
Serious	2	5	0	2	6	15
Slight	40	67	45	43	28	223
Total	43	73	46	49	36	247

Ports: Inspections

Albert Owen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Vehicle and Operator Services Agency checks have been undertaken at the ports of *(a)* Holyhead, *(b)* Pembroke, *(c)* Fishguard, *(d)* Liverpool, *(e)* Heysham and *(f)* Stranraer since the checking system came into operation; what the frequency of checks is at each of those ports; and if he will make a statement. [274623]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A list of checks undertaken at the ports of *(a)* Holyhead, *(b)* Pembroke, *(c)* Fishguard, *(d)* Liverpool, *(e)* Heysham and *(f)* Stranraer since the checking system came into operation and the frequency of checks is at each of those ports has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Railway Stations: Access

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Network Rail has to provide step-free access at each of the former Silverlink rail stations which also have Bakerloo Line platforms. [274708]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport and Network Rail currently have no plans to provide step-free access to the former Silverlink overground platforms at these stations, which comprise Harrow and Wealdstone, Willesden Junction, and Queens Park. Decisions regarding the provision of step-free access to London Underground services at those stations are the responsibility of Transport for London, contact details for which can be found at

http://www.tfl.gov.uk/

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway stations do not have step-free access. [274709]

Paul Clark: Detailed information about station facilities is held and maintained by train operators and the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and not by the Department for Transport. However, studies for the Strategic Rail Authority in 2005 showed that approximately 50 per cent. of stations provided step-free access routes to platforms, covering 57 per cent of journeys.

In March 2006 the Railways for All Strategy was launched, which includes £370 million of Access for All funding for station improvements over a 10 year period, in addition to access improvements delivered as part of rail franchises and major investment projects. We anticipate that over 80 per cent. of journeys will start or end at a step-free station by 2015.

Railways: Finance

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much has been spent on capital funding for *(a)* railway infrastructure and *(b)* rail rolling stock from (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector in each year since 1979; [274480]

(2) what estimate he has made of the financial subsidy to the running cost of railways in the UK paid from the public purse in each year since 1979. [274481]

Paul Clark: The information is not available in the form requested. However, full details of historic Government expenditure on the railway is published in National Rail Trends by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies are available in the Library of the House and online at

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Railways: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department has received in the last five years on rail services in Torbay from *(a)* Torbay local authority and *(b)* the South West Regional Development Agency. [274409]

Paul Clark: Having searched the Department for Transport's records, one representation was found from Torbay council. This representation was an objection raised during the franchise replacement consultation in 2006, prior to the re-letting of the franchise. The objection related to the proposal therein that the London Waterloo-Torbay service would terminate at Exeter.

A representation was found from the South West Regional Development Agency, also in response to this consultation, offering a number of comments, including an expression of concern at Paignton and Plymouth proposals and their possible impact upon both productivity improvements and economic and housing growth.

Rescue Services

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Search and Rescue Strategic Committee last met; and whether it discussed the level of search and rescue cover provided for the South Hams coastline. [274065]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The United Kingdom Search and Rescue Strategic Committee last met on 22 October 2008 but did not discuss the level of search and rescue cover provided for the South Hams coastline.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have participated in his Department's consultation exercise on the search and rescue requirements of the southern part of the South Hams coastline. [274064]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not yet started a consultation exercise on the maritime search and rescue provision in the southern part of the south-west peninsula.

Road Traffic: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of congestion levels in the Torbay local authority area based on *(a)* reports from the Government Office South West and *(b)* the mid-term progress review of the local transport plan; and what support his Department is providing to Torbay local authority to (i) increase bus usage and (ii) reduce traffic congestion. [273974]

Paul Clark: I refer to my answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 196W, regarding the progress review of Torbay council's local transport plan conducted with the Government Office for the South West. The progress review covers congestion levels in the area.

The Department for Transport is providing the following financial support to Torbay council to help improve their local transport infrastructure and public transport services. This funding will help the authority increase bus patronage and reduce traffic congestion.

Financial year 2008-09—DfT funding to Torbay council

Funding stream	Purpose	£000
Integrated Transport (IT) Block	Capital grant to support small transport projects.	1,707
Highways maintenance	Capital grant for road maintenance—e.g. resurfacing, repairs	966
Rural Bus Subsidy Grant[1]	Revenue grant allocation to support rural bus services	17
Concessionary travel	Support for concessionary fares	982
Total		3,670

[1] Originally paid by DfT, but since 2008-09 has been paid as an area based grant by DCLG.

This funding is not ring-fenced and Torbay council has discretion to spend allocations in line with their priorities. Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

The Department is also supporting Torbay council in the following ways:

£4.1 million will be provided in 2009-10 for improvements to the Tweenaway Cross junction;

assessing a Major Scheme Business Case on funding for the proposed A380 South Devon Link Road, a scheme promoted jointly by Devon and Torbay councils;

providing Torbay council with vehicle journey time data to inform their congestion policies;

£589,000 of funding over a number of years through the 2005 Kickstart bus competition to improve bus patronage and encourage modal shift through the South Devon College and Western corridor scheme.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road closures due to road traffic accidents there were in each local authority area in the South West in each of the last five years; and for how long the road or roads affected were closed in each case. [273760]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information held by the Highways Agency relating to road closures due to road traffic accidents, is not in the form requested. The Highways Agency and the Department for Transport do not keep data relating to road closures due to road traffic accidents on local roads, and therefore this information will need to be obtained from the local highway authorities.

The first table provides information about closures by police force area, for the motorway network in the South West over a five year period. The second table lists information by route for the All Purpose Trunk Road network in the South West, also over a five year period.

From the data held, the duration of closures ranged from five minutes to 23 hours 58 minutes.

The information available is for road traffic accidents where the police have requested Highways Agency involvement. No data are held for those occurrences where the police have dealt with an accident alone. Also, the data available for All Purpose Trunk Roads west of Exeter are from autumn 2006 onwards, and from July 2005 for other Highways Agency roads in the south west network.

Motorways by police force area from July 2005 onwards

	Number of road closures on motorways per year				
Police Force Area	July 2005 onwards	2006	2007	2008	2009
Avon and Somerset	12	16	40	32	10
Wiltshire	0	4	8	10	2
Gloucester	5	5	16	9	1
Devon and Cornwall	1	2	4	4	1

All purpose trunk roads

	Number of road closures per year				
Trunk Road Number	July to December 2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
A30/A35 D&FO	0	10	11	11	5
A30 Non D&FO	[1]—	10	24	26	11
A38	[1]—	2	21	25	16
A417/A419 D&FO	1	2	4	2	1
A36	4	11	19	4	6
A303	5	16	18	13	4
A30 east of Honiton	1	0	0	1	0
A4	3	0	1	0	0
A40	5	4	2	3	2
A46	4	2	8	3	1

[1] Not known

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures govern the retention by local authorities of unspent funds designated for highway and byway maintenance for use on highway and byway projects in subsequent financial years. [273262]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport provides funding to local authorities for highway maintenance by specific grant, contributions to Area Based Grant and through Supported Capital Expenditure Revenue (SCERs). Local authorities receive support for the borrowing costs of SCERs through formula grant. This is an unhypothecated block grant, not designated for any particular service, and can be used to fund highway maintenance projects or byways, for which the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has policy responsibility. Local authorities also receive unhypothecated income through council tax and other sources such as fees and charges.

The amount of money allocated to highways and byways maintenance is for individual local authorities to decide. Where an authority has not fully claimed a specific grant allocation by the year end, they may apply to the Department for the remaining funding to be transferred to a later year. For other funding there are no central restrictions which govern the retention of funds held if authorities do not spend any budget which they set.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of levels of road safety in the Torbay local authority area based on *(a)* reports from the Government office south-west and *(b)* the mid-term progress review of the local transport plan; and what assistance his Department is providing to Torbay local authority to reduce road casualties in the area. [274292]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 196W, regarding the progress review of Torbay council's local transport plan conducted with the Government office for the south-west. The progress review covers road safety.

The Department for Transport is providing the following financial support to Torbay council to help them improve their local transport infrastructure and public transport services. This funding will help the authority develop road safety schemes and thereby reduce road casualties.

Financial year 2008-09—DFT funding to Torbay council

Funding stream	*Purpose*	*£000*
Integrated Transport (IT) Block	Capital grant to support small transport projects.	1,707
Road safety—capital	Capital support for road safety	28
Road safety—revenue	Revenue support for road safety.	127
Total		1,862

This funding is not ring-fenced and Torbay council has discretion to spend allocations in line with their priorities. Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

The Department also contributes to the sharing of information and good practice via a group of local authority officers in the south-west region. Nationally it is sponsoring a number of demonstration and partnership projects with other local authorities to assist local authorities as a whole in their continued work to reduce road casualties.

Schools: Transport

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of children travelling to school by car in each local authority area in the South West in the latest period for which figures are available. [274407]

Paul Clark: Data collected by schools in the South West area via the School Census in January 2008 showed the following percentage of children travelled to school by car in each local authority area:

Local authority	*Travelling by car*	*Car sharing*	*Percentage Total trips by car*[1]
Bath and North East Somerset	28.9	2.1	31.0
Bournemouth	39.0	1.6	40.6
Bristol City	25.5	3.9	29.4
Cornwall	36.3	2.0	38.2
Devon	26.2	2.5	28.8
Dorset	32.3	3.1	35.4
Gloucestershire	29.3	4.6	33.8
North Somerset	30.5	4.1	34.6
Plymouth	25.8	2.4	28.2
Poole	34.3	3.1	37.4
Somerset	27.2	3.0	30.2
South Gloucestershire	26.7	3.8	30.5
Swindon	24.1	2.6	26.7
Torbay	32.6	2.9	35.5
Wiltshire	28.4	4.0	32.4

[1] Total may not appear to be the sum of the component parts because percentages have been rounded to the nearest decimal place.

The Government want as many children as possible to walk, cycle or use public transport to travel to school, that is why, in 2003, it launched the Travelling to School project setting out how it wants all schools in England to develop a school travel plan in order to reduce car use for journey to school and allow many more children to take regular exercise. By 2010 more than £140 million will have been committed to support the project through local authority school travel advisers and capital grants to help schools implement their travel plans.

Speed Limits

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of road deaths and injuries of raising the speed limit for light goods vehicles on single carriageway A roads by 10 miles per hour. [274353]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No such estimate has been made. We have no plans to raise the national speed limits for light goods vehicles.

Transport: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on *(a)* rail, *(b)* road and *(c)* bicycle transport in Coventry. [274378]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport received advice in February 2009 from the west midlands region on its transport priorities in the period up to 2018-19 as part of its regional funding advice to Government. This includes proposals for investment in Coventry through schemes such as a new public transport interchange at Coventry railway station (Connecting Coventry), a Bus Rapid Transit System (SPRINT) and a Nuneaton to Coventry rail line upgrade (NUCKLE). Furthermore, the Highways Agency has prioritised a scheme within the regional funding advice to improve the A45/A46 at Tollbar End, in Coventry.

We expect to be in a position to respond to this advice by the summer.

Also, departmental officials are due to meet with representatives from Coventry city council on their proposed NUCKLE rail upgrade scheme later this month.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials accompanied her to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273901]

Chris Bryant: One official accompanied my right hon. and learned Friend to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Leader of the House what car journeys she took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273902]

Chris Bryant: A Government car was used by my right hon. and learned Friend to travel to and from the airport in both London and Glasgow.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Leader of the House how much expenditure was incurred by her Office in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273903]

Chris Bryant: The total expenditure incurred by the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009 was £1,115.97.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Leader of the House what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) she and (ii) officials in her Office incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273904]

Chris Bryant: The total cost of travel incurred by my right hon. and learned Friend and one official in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009 was £1,115.97. My right hon. Friend and the accompanying official incurred no expenditure on accommodation and food.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records his Department holds on anti-Semitism in pre-war Nazi Germany which remain closed to the public; and if he will make a statement. [274026]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office do not hold any records on anti-Semitism in Germany before World War II. We have released all such documents to the Public Records Office.

Burma: USA

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the US Administration on its review of US policy on Burma. [275328]

Bill Rammell: I discussed Burma with US Administration officials and members of Congress when I visited Washington from 3-5 May 2009. We remain in close contact with our US colleagues about the situation in Burma at all levels. We are working with them to ensure that collective international pressure is brought onto the regime to engage with the UN Good Offices mission and to instigate genuine political reforms. We continue to share concerns for the prospects of inclusive elections in 2010 and the grave humanitarian situation. The US Administration have not as yet concluded the work that is under way.

China: Asylum

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with his Chinese counterpart on the recent deportation from China of refugees from North Korea. [274321]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 11 May 2009]*: We continue to urge China to observe its obligations under the 1951 convention on the status of refugees and to allow the UN High Commissioner for Refugees access to the China/Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) border region. This subject was raised with the Chinese at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in January 2009. We urged China not to return those people crossing the border from DPRK to China. China continues to maintain the position that cases are dealt with in line with domestic and international law.

China: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will instruct diplomats from the UK mission in Beijing to visit in prison in China those Tibetans sentenced to death for alleged arson attacks in Lhasa in March 2008. [273789]

Bill Rammell: We do not intend to make a request to visit these prisoners, however we do remain concerned about their convictions. The UK is opposed to the death penalty in principle, and as a consequence, working closely with our EU counterparts, we are urging the Chinese authorities not to carry out the sentences imposed on those convicted.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of China during the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in mid-May on the recent death sentencing of six Tibetans for alleged arson attacks in Lhasa in March 2008. [273790]

Bill Rammell: The cases of the Tibetans facing the death penalty will be raised at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue.

Council of Europe

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what directions he gave to the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe on voting in the meeting of Ministers' Deputies on the transmission to the Parliamentary Assembly of

the Council of Europe of the list of candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe. [273137]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* In line with our objectives on international institutional reform we have consistently supported a robust, fair and open selection process for the next Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The UK Permanent Representative was therefore instructed to support the shortlisting of candidates on the basis of a rigorous assessment against the agreed list of criteria and competences for the post.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe on the short-listing of candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe since the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the electoral process for the Secretary General adopted on 29 April 2009; what the UK's position at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers in Madrid on 12 May 2009 will be; and if he will make a statement. [273138]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* We have considered carefully Resolution 1665 (2009) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted on 29 April 2009. The UK stands by the draft resolution agreed by Ministers' Deputies on 23 April 2009 which will be formally adopted at the ministerial meeting in Madrid on 12 May 2009 nominating two of the four proposed candidates to PACE for election of the next Secretary General.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull East (Mr. Prescott) in his capacity as leader of the UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, before directing the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe on the position to be taken in the meeting of Ministers' Deputies on the transmission to the Parliamentary Assembly of the list of candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe. [273140]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* A planned consultation on this issue between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers took place in Strasbourg on 29 April 2009. My right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) and the UK Permanent Representative participated actively.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he instructed the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe to vote for a particular candidate for the post of Secretary-General of the Council of Europe. [273681]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* Following a rigorous assessment of the candidates against the agreed list of criteria and competences the UK Permanent Representation was instructed on how to vote on each of the four proposed candidates.

EU Battlegroups

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on implementation of the EU Atalanta mission; and if he will make a statement. [273843]

Caroline Flint: Operation Atalanta is achieving highly positive results in providing protection to World Food Programme and other vulnerable shipping. It has delivered a significant reduction in the number of successful attacks in the Internationally Recognised Transit Corridor in the Gulf of Aden through close co-operation with the shipping industry and close co-ordination with other military operations in the region. While successful pirate attacks continue, these are either overwhelmingly against shipping which is not following the EU's operations advice and agreed best practice, or is in the Somali Basin further south where shipping is much more at risk given the size of the area for the military operations to cover: the military operations are rightly concentrated further north, given the much greater importance of the Gulf of Aden trade artery.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on UK involvement in the EU Atalanta mission. [273845]

Caroline Flint: The estimated common cost of the EU operation is €8.3 million, 17 per cent. of which is met by the UK. This amounts to £1.26 million. Other costs which include running costs of ships and aircraft are met by the contributing countries nationally.

European External Action Service

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to second any staff of his Department to the proposed European external action service. [273298]

Caroline Flint: Were the Lisbon Treaty to enter into force, and EU member states to take a decision to establish the European external action service, then we would plan to second Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff to it.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the proposed European external action service. [273321]

Caroline Flint: I have had no recent discussions with my EU counterparts about the proposed European external action service (EEAS). This service could only be established were the Lisbon treaty to come into force and after a unanimous decision by EU member states to do so.

European Union

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates he had *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings with the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus on the situation in the region in the last 12 months. [274804]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* There has been no ministerial contact with the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus (EUSR) in the last 12 months. However, senior officials have continued to meet the EUSR on a regular basis.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates he had *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings with the European Union Special Representative for the Middle East peace process on the status of the process in the last 12 months. [274807]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the EU Special Representative for the Middle East peace process have shared their views on a number of occasions in the last 12 months. This includes at General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) and Gymnich meetings.

India: Religious Freedom

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will encourage the Indian Government to implement the recommendations of UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in her report of her 2008 mission to India. [274096]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to work through the EU on a number of human rights issues as part of a continuing EU-India Human Rights Dialogue. The recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief were identified by EU colleagues as a subject for discussion at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue meeting in February 2009. It was agreed by both sides that there would be continued exchanges about discrimination, including on religious grounds. The recommendations will be a useful point of reference for future engagement with India on human rights issues.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on levels of religiously-motivated violence in India in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [274097]

Bill Rammell: We have received reports of communal violence in Orissa and Karnataka where Hindu extremists waged a campaign of violence against Christians in August and September 2008. At about the same time in Assam, violent clashes occurred between Bodo tribes and Muslims; in Maharastra, between Hindus and Muslims and in Andra Pradesh, between Hindus and Muslims.

We have raised the issue of freedom of religion with the Indian authorities on several occasions, most recently at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue which took place on 27 February 2009 in New Delhi.

Mauritania: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the *(a)* EU and *(b)* UK decided not to send observers to the presidential elections in Mauritania. [275098]

Bill Rammell: The EU was invited by the Mauritanian junta to send an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to monitor the proposed 6 June 2009 elections in Mauritania. The EU agreed to suspend non-humanitarian assistance to Mauritania under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement on 2 April 2009 because of insufficient progress towards the restoration of democratic rule, following the 6 August 2008 coup. The request by the Mauritanian coup leaders for an EU EOM was declined on the grounds that the elections are currently envisaged not to be representative, free or fair. There are a number of political parties boycotting the elections on this basis.

The UK has not been invited to send any observers to the presidential elections.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Russian counterpart and *(b)* HM Ambassador in Moscow on the imprisonment of Mikhail Khodorkovsky. [274676]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not specifically raised Mikhail Khodorkovsky's situation in his recent conversations with Foreign Minister Lavrov. However, we have made clear our concerns about the treatment of Mr. Khodorkovsky, and others who have been arrested or prosecuted in the Yukos affair, both bilaterally and through the EU. The issue was raised bilaterally at the UK-Russia human rights consultations in January 2009 in Moscow. Our concerns relate to due process and fair treatment in the Yukos cases, and they include the arbitrary application of the rule of law, access to lawyers and medical care, conditions of detention and the alleged harassment of defence teams and witnesses.

Our embassy in Moscow is watching current developments in Mr. Khodorkovsky's case closely, and is participating in trial monitoring with EU partners and the US. We will continue to follow the progress of Mr. Khodorkovsky's case.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts in the (i) European Union and (ii) UN Security Council on efforts to secure the release of kidnapped Israeli soldier Corporal Shalit. [275402]

Bill Rammell: We along with the EU have made our position clear ever since the kidnapping of Gilad Shalit, and we continue to call for his immediate, unconditional, and safe release. The EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, made this clear in his press statement on the Gaza crisis in January 2009, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last reiterated this message during his intervention at the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009.

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Israeli government on the kidnapped Israeli soldier, Corporal Shalit. [275403]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to call for the immediate, unconditional, and safe release of Gilad Shalit, in public and in private, including in our discussions with the Israeli Government. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this most recently in his statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009.

Papua: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Indonesian authorities on allegations of human rights abuses in West Papua. [275130]

Bill Rammell: I raised UK concerns with the situation in Papua and West Papua provinces in discussions with the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Hassan Wirajuda, on 10 February 2009. I stressed that greater transparency was an important element to building trust and ensuring greater peace and prosperity for the region. Embassy officials continue to monitor the situation closely and to discuss the human rights situation with Indonesian Government officials—most recently on 6 May 2009—as well as civil society and community representatives from the Papuan provinces.

Papua: International Red Cross

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Indonesia on its recent decision to expel the International Committee of the Red Cross from West Papua. [275129]

Bill Rammell: We have sought clarification of the reports regarding the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and their presence in West Papua from the Government of Indonesia. Our embassy have been told that the ICRC field office in Papua has been closed and that the status agreements governing the ICRC's activities in Indonesia need to be renegotiated. We hope that this can be concluded speedily. The government of Indonesia told us that ICRC officials may still visit Papua. Our embassy are also in touch with ICRC officials in Indonesia and will continue to monitor the situation closely. We are meeting with the Indonesian ambassador in London to register our concerns. I discussed access to Papua and West Papua provinces with Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Hassan Wirajuda, most recently on 10 February 2009 in Jakarta.

Rizana Nafeek

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1855W, on Rizana Nafeek, if he will direct HM Ambassador to Saudi Arabia to report on Rizana Nafeek; and if he will make a statement. [273766]

Bill Rammell: Ms Nafeek is currently held in a prison north, of Riyadh. The appeal against her conviction is outstanding. The Sri Lankan embassy in Riyadh have regular consular access. The Saudi Human Rights Commission are aware of Ms Nafeek's case. The Government oppose the death penalty in all cases. We are particularly opposed to the execution of people who are convicted of crimes committed when they were minors. In February 2009 the UK recommended that Saudi Arabia set an age of legal majority at 18 during the Universal Periodic Review of Saudi Arabia in Geneva. This recommendation was repeated by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the Saudi Foreign Minister during his visit to Riyadh in April 2009.

Russia: Nuclear Power Stations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of proposals by the Russian Government to build and operate nuclear power stations in Arctic waters. [274776]

Caroline Flint: We have received no formal approach by the Russian Government about proposals to build and operate nuclear power stations in Arctic Waters.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on allegations of human rights abuses in the conflict in that country. [275081]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka on 29 April 2009. Most recently he spoke to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogllogama on 10 May 2009 to express our concerns about the situation in Sri Lanka.

The Foreign Secretary has consistently pressed the Sri Lankan Government to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and to take all possible steps to safeguard civilian lives, including allowing UN and international aid agencies to deliver food, water and medicine into the conflict zone and to allow civilians allowed to move to safety. It is vital that the conditions for those civilians in the IDP camps meet international standards.

We have made clear to the Sri Lankan Government the need to guarantee press freedoms. Given the restrictions placed on the media and non-governmental organisations, it has been difficult to verify reports and accusations by both sides of the conflict. The Foreign Secretary has also expressed the need for transparency.

Tibet: Human Rights

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of China on human rights in Tibet. [273423]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* We continue to have concerns about the human rights of Tibetans both in Tibet and the surrounding regions. Most recently my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised our concerns on the situation in Tibet with both Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao, urging the Chinese authorities to resume their discussions with the Dalai Lama's envoys without delay.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also raised Tibet with Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi at the UK-China Summit in February 2009.

I made the same points to the Chinese ambassador when we met on 25 March 2009. The UK also raised concerns about human rights of Tibetans during China's appearance before the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva on 9 February 2009.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress in the development of the technology to enable the burial of carbon captured from coal-fired power stations under the North Sea; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost of such operations. [273199]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made an oral statement to the House on proposals for carbon, capture and storage (CCS) policy on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 345. These proposals build on previous policy statements and are underpinned by a number of studies and reports, including assessments of development status of CCS:

Review on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS), 2003:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file21887.pdf

Industrial Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Carbon Dioxide Storage Potential in the UK, 2006:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file35684.pdf

IEA Energy Technologies Perspectives:

http://www.iea.org/Textbase/techno/etp/index.asp

European Technology Platform for Zero Emission Fossil Fuel Plans - CO_2 Capture and Storage (CCS) Matrix of Technologies

Most recently, DECC's Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies (ACCAT) has set out its views in its advisory document on 'Accelerating the Deployment of Carbon Abatement Technologies with special focus on Carbon Capture and Storage, 2009':

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file50028.pdf

These reports all indicate that CCS has reached the stage of development at which it needs to be demonstrated at full-scale. It is for this reason that the Government have decided to support up to four such demonstration projects in the UK.

The CAT strategy (2005) compared estimates of the cost of carbon abated with CCS and alternative low carbon power generation technologies. This showed a wide possible range because the cost of CCS is sensitive to the cost of building CCS, its operational performance and the relative cost of coal compared to other fuels. It would not be fruitful to produce new estimates until these uncertainties have been reduced by full-scale CCS demonstration projects.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions from ICT systems operated by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [273549]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department currently uses IT systems provided by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs under IT services contracts with Fujitsu and IBM respectively. No separate estimate has been made for the levels of carbon dioxide specific to my Department. However, my Department is engaging with the Carbon Trust to understand the emissions that will be generated by the single IT system my Department plans on adopting from the summer of this year.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 708W, on the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, what estimate he has made of the amount of funding requested through those eligible grant applications for solar photovoltaic technology under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 which have been put on hold. [270714]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The Low Carbon Buildings Programme has seen significant levels of applications for solar PV technology. Since December 2008, £9 million has been reallocated within the programme to support solar PV bringing the total grant commitment to £26.5 million.

Following the Budget announcement, we have allocated immediately an additional £5 million for solar PV Phase 2 to be able to deal with the majority of projects which were put on hold.

Nuclear Power: Safety

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements have been put in place for nuclear safety policy and its implementation at nuclear installations following the disbanding of the Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee. [273894]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There has been no change to the arrangements for regulating nuclear safety at nuclear installations. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) continues to regulate nuclear installations to the highest standards of safety and to provide expert advice on these matters to Government.

The Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee was one of several HSE advisory committees. It reached the end of its latest term of office in October 2008. The HSE Board decided to defer any decisions on reconstituting the Committee pending the outcome of various reviews. This included taking account of the recommendations, published in January 2009, of Dr. Tim Stone's review of nuclear regulatory arrangements.

One of Dr. Stone's recommendations accepted by the Government was to restructure the HSE's Nuclear Directorate through legislation. The future make up of any advisory body needs to follow decisions on these arrangements. Meanwhile, in addition to its own experts, the HSE is able to call on many external sources of advice on nuclear safety.

Sellafield: Safety

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what investigation his Department has undertaken of the coolant incident that occurred at the high-activity liquid radioactive waste storage tanks at Sellafield on 1-2 April; when he was first informed of the incident; and when notification of the incident was made to *(a)* Euratom safety authorities and *(b)* the International Atomic Energy Agency. [271813]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This incident was notified to the Health and Safety Executive, the independent nuclear safety regulator, on 1 April and to officials in my Department on 2 April. The Executive is currently conducting a full and formal investigation to establish the facts of the incident, which will be used to inform the need for regulatory enforcement action. The incident was not notified to Euratom or to the International Atomic Energy Agency as there is no requirement to do so for incidents of this kind.

Wind Power

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the electricity consumed in England and Wales was generated by wind farms in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [275032]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest available data for electricity consumption and wind generation in England and Wales are for 2007. Data for 2008 will be available in September 2009. As shown in the following table, wind generation accounted for 0.7 per cent. of electricity consumption in England and Wales in 2007.

	Electricity consumption (GWh)	*Wind generation (GWh)*	*Wind generation as a percentage of electricity consumption*
England	289,790	1,408.4	0.5
Wales	19,421	864.0	4.5
England and Wales	309,211	2,272.4	0.7

HEALTH

Care Homes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent from the public purse on the *(a)* operation and *(b)* refurbishment of care homes in the latest period for which figures are available. [273695]

Phil Hope: The information is not collected centrally in the format requested. No estimate has been made.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people diagnosed with schizophrenia are being held in detention in secure hospitals *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Leicester; [275125]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with schizophrenia *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Leicester in each of the last three years; [275135]

(3) how many people are being held in detention in secure hospitals for mental health reasons *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Leicester. [275136]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of people held in secure hospitals due to a diagnosis of schizophrenia, or for other mental health reasons is not collected centrally.

Information is collected on the average daily number of psychiatric beds in national health service units in England in 2007-08 within high, medium and some low secure units and of the average daily occupancy level and is shown in the table.

Secure services in Leicester are provided by Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust. Information is also available on the number of secure service beds within Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust, but not occupancy levels, and this is also shown in the table. These figures show only NHS beds and not those commissioned by the NHS from independent sector providers.

2007-08: Average daily number of mental health secure unit beds in NHS units in England; national average daily occupancy levels in secure unit beds; and average daily number of mental health secure unit beds in NHS units in Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust: data on average daily occupancy levels in secure unit beds is not collected at trust level

	Number
Average daily number of Secure Unit beds in England	3,159
Average daily Secure Unit beds occupancy in England	2,885
Average daily number of Secure Unit beds in Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust	6
Average daily Secure Unit beds occupancy in Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust	n/a

n/a = Not available.
Source:
Department of Health Dataset KH03

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274523]

Mr. Bradshaw: Individuals who wish to make a complaint about the Department or its members of staff may contact the Department in any form they wish. However all complaints are treated the same way, no matter how they are received.

Should an individual wish to make a formal complaint, he or she may do so to the Department's Customer Service Centre. Each complaint is investigated thoroughly, and if upheld, recommendations are made internally to ensure that future service is improved. Wherever possible, the Department aims to respond to complainants within 20 working days.

Details of how to make a complaint to the Department can be found on the Department's website.

If a complainant is unhappy with the Department's response they may ask their Member of Parliament to request that the Parliamentary and Health Service

Ombudsman investigates the complaint and the way it was handled. The Ombudsman carries out independent investigations into complaints about Government Departments.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much members of his departmental board claimed in expenses in each financial year between 2004-05 and 2007-08. [272779]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is committed to being open about its use of expenses. Recent answers to parliamentary questions and freedom of information requests have not only covered the expenses directly claimed but also expenses covered by centrally managed contracts, for example train and hotel bookings. These answers have included expenses data at an aggregate level or for a handful of individuals based on recent data. To ensure consistency we would need to approach several suppliers, some who no longer hold the contracts to provide the data and have no obligation to provide the information.

There is no statutory requirement to collect and report on this data in the format requested and to provide an answer to this question would require manual interrogation of a finance system, which was replaced in July 2008 by a new departmental accounting system. Since 2004-05, there have been 33 members of the board. Therefore, the Department cannot provide an answer as to do so would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the NHS capital budget for 2009-10 has been reduced by £100 million from the plans set out in the 2008 pre-Budget report. [273623]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS capital budget in 2009-10 is unchanged between pre-Budget report 2008 (£5.4 billion, Table B18, page 214), and Budget 2009 (£5.4 billion, Table C11, page 241).

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to Table 6.1 of the Budget Report 2009, (1) how much each organisation for which his Department has responsibility will contribute to the £10.5 billion in savings proposed in relation to the new 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review target; [273625]

(2) how his Department plans to release *(a)* £500 million through reductions in average length of stay in hospitals and *(b)* £500 million through improved capability and planning capacity in commissioning; whether primary care trust allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are to remain unchanged; and if he will make a statement; [273626]

(3) what *(a)* cashable and *(b)* non-cashable savings his Department plans to make to meet the £10.5 billion savings proposed over the period covered by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review; and in which year each saving is to be made. [273627]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not set savings targets for individual national health service organisations. All organisations will be expected to contribute to the savings and, where appropriate, this is reflected when setting allocations from the Department to NHS and other organisations and when setting the payment by results tariff prices that NHS providers receive for providing NHS services.

Table 6.1 in the Budget report 2009 includes examples of how the Department intends to meet its new savings target of £10.5 billion per year by 2010-11. Further specific details are set out publicly in the Department's Value for Money Delivery Agreement and the Government's 2009 Value for Money Update.

There is scope for significant savings through reductions in average length of stay through movement towards the performance of the best organisations, including bearing down on clinical intervention thresholds that appear to be inappropriate when compared to clinical best practice.

The World Class Commissioning Programme has supported primary care trusts in focusing their energy towards commissioning for long-term health gain for their local communities. We will build on this by introducing a new efficiency competency into the assurance framework in 2009-10. This will ensure that commissioners are equipped with the capability and planning capacity to drive transformations in both the quality of care and the efficiency of services.

HM Treasury guidance requires that all value for money savings declared under the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR) programme are cash-releasing. There are no interim targets but the Department report publicly on progress towards the 2010-11 target in its annual autumn performance report and departmental report. The Department's approach to delivering savings in the 2007 CSR period is set out in its Value for Money Delivery Agreement and the Government's 2009 Value for Money Update.

Primary care trust allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11, announced in December 2008, are unchanged.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274217]

Mr. Bradshaw: Spending on information technology (IT) training by the Department over the last five years is as follows:

	£
2004-05	427,540
2005-06	435,712
2006-07	442,260
2007-08	456,300
2008-09	461,110

The information is based on the provision of IT training and guidance delivered by the in-house training team. It does not include information about courses run and paid for locally within Departmental directorates nor for training delivered during the implementation of new projects, neither of which is held centrally, and would incur disproportionate costs to establish.

Health Services: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided for *(a)* primary care and *(b)* other health services in Crosby constituency in each of the last five years; and what infrastructural improvements have been made to healthcare facilities in the constituency in that time. [273607]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the Crosby constituency is served by the Sefton Primary Care Trust (PCT). The following table shows the revenue allocations for Sefton PCT for each of the last five years.

	Sefton PCT revenue allocations (£ million)
2004-05	303.5
2005-06	330.5
2006-07	389.7
2007-08	424.4
2008-09	447.6
2009-10	479.2

Note:
Sefton PCT was formed on 1 October 2006 following the merger of South Sefton and Southport and Formby PCTs. Allocations in 2004-05 to 2007-08 were made to the former 303 PCTs. The table shows estimates for the current configuration of 152 PCTs. The scope of services covered by allocations has increased over time. In particular, before 2006-07 most primary medical services funding was not included in PCT allocations.

There is currently one general practitioner (GP)-led health centre open in Sefton PCT, as well as two additional GP practices commissioned as part of the Equitable Access to Primary Care initiative. These services opened to patients in April 2009.

It is the responsibility of PCTs to plan, develop and improve health services according to the needs of their local populations. The Department does not collect information on what infrastructural improvements have been made to health care facilities by particular PCTs. This information should be obtained from the PCT directly.

Hospitals: Mobile Telephones

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 20 hospitals were asked to provide copies of their policies governing the use of mobile telephones in hospitals as part of the consultation on the liberalisation of mobile telephone use. [275503]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information was collected on mobile phone usage policies from national health service trusts. This information helped inform the Department's publication—Using mobile phones in NHS hospitals January 2009.

The information requested is as follows.

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust;
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust;
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust;
East Sussex hospitals NHS Trust;
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust;
Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust;
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust;
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust;
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust;
Poole Hospital NHS Trust;
Portsmouth City NHS Teaching Primary Care Trust;
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust;
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust;
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust;
The Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust;
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust; and
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations *(a)* were invited to participate in and *(b)* responded to the consultation on liberalisation of mobile telephone use in hospitals. [275504]

Mr. Bradshaw: A wide range of organisations was consulted to inform the Department's new mobile phone usage guidance. This was done in order to address the legal, safety, privacy and dignity issues arising from mobile phone use in hospitals. Each national health service trust has responsibility for formulating its own mobile phone usage policy, after conducting a full risk assessment, as stated in the Department's publication—Using mobile phones in NHS hospitals January 2009.

The information requested is as follows.

The Department of Health's Legal Services;
National Health Service Trusts;
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency;
National Patient Safety Agency;
Chief Nursing Office;
European Healthcare Organisations; and
Hospital Bedside Television and Telephones providers.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274541]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has a health and safety policy, which recognises its responsibilities, under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. We also employ a health and safety policy manager and secure specialist advice through our facilities management supplier, which enables us to ensure compliance.

We cannot separately identify those costs associated solely with compliance in these roles nor for individual maintenance or improvement work as legislative compliance is an integral requirement.

We can separately identify the costs incurred in undertaking workstation assessments, fire warden and manual handling training for 2008-09, because we procured these separately, and those costs amounted to £17,598 in 2008-09.

Lincolnshire Teaching Primary Care Trust

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust has made discretionary dispensations in the last 12 months. [274046]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information requested is not held centrally. The Department does not break down primary care trust (PCT) allocations by policies, at either national or local level. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment taking into account both local priorities and the national health service operating framework. This information can be obtained by contacting Lincolnshire Teaching PCT directly.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treatment of veterans with psychological wounding. [275183]

Phil Hope: It is not possible to quantify the costs of providing psychological help to veterans because they are not separately identified as such from the rest of the population, nor do they receive treatment in distinct facilities.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance his Department has issued to Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust on the involvement of *(a)* patients and *(b)* the public in the preparation of its action plan; and if he will make a statement. [274914]

Mr. Bradshaw: The trust's board is responsible for developing and implementing an action plan to address the issues raised by the Healthcare Commission and subsequently in the reports from Professor Sir George Alberti and Doctor David Colin-Thome. In doing this, the board will work closely with the trust's members and governors, who represent the needs and wishes of their local communities.

NHS: Equality

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to Pacesetters programmes in each primary care trust for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [273386]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department runs the Pacesetters programme in conjunction with six strategic health authorities (SHAs). The programme is designed to improve the equality performance of the national health service through a range of innovative projects based within trusts located within these SHAs. In total 34 trusts are participating in Pacesetters. These projects are being evaluated independently, and good practice and learning will be disseminated widely throughout the NHS. The Department provides funding and other support to the SHAs, and intends to do so in 2009-10. Final levels of funding in the current financial year have yet to be determined. Once the funding is delivered to the SHAs, in large part it is the responsibility of the SHAs to determine the allocations to individual trusts.

Nutrition

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that the nutrition action plan is effectively communicated to *(a)* healthcare and *(b)* social care providers. [274362]

Phil Hope: The joint 'Nutrition Action Plan' from the Department of Health and Nutrition Summit stakeholders was published on 30 October 2007. A press release was issued giving details of the Plan and the Plan was placed on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079931

A copy has been placed in the Library.

A delivery board of key stakeholders was set up to oversee implementation of the five priority areas identified in the nutrition action plan. The board are due to submit its final report in the summer, setting out the progress made and the issues that still need to be addressed.

The Department and 28 stakeholder organisations involved in developing the plan have pledged to use their own communications mechanisms, including conferences, events, newsletters and guidance to ensure that the messages and best practice reach the widest possible health and social care audiences.

Nutrition: Children

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for the development of policy on nutrition for children between the ages of one and three years; and what guidance on nutrition for such children the Government provide. [274592]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is responsible for the development of policy on nutrition for children between the ages of one and three years. This is evidence based, drawing on the recommendations from the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA). Also, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) is currently reviewing evidence on the influence of maternal, foetal and child nutrition status, including growth and development in utero and early childhood, on the development of disease later in life. In taking this work forward, the Committee is considering the evidence around maternal, fetal and early life factors, including infant diet and growth. SACN aims to publish their final report later this year.

As part of its on going work, the Committee's Sub-group on Maternal and Child Nutrition is also planning to update the COMA report Weaning and The Weaning Diet.

Primary Healthcare: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the primary care provided by the NHS in each of the last five years in England was publicly funded. [274367]

Mr. Bradshaw: All primary medical care provided by the national health service in the last five years is publicly funded.

While the major proportion of the cost of NHS primary dental care is publicly funded from resources allocated to the NHS, an element of gross costs is also met from NHS dental charges by patients who are not otherwise eligible for free treatment or remission of charges. The proportion of gross costs met from dental charges is set out in the following table:

	Percentage proportion of gross cost of NHS primary dental services met from NHS dental charges
2003-04	26.6
2004-05	23.9
2005-06	18.6
2006-07	21.3
2007-08	22.6

All NHS primary eye services are publicly funded from NHS resources; eligibility for NHS sight tests and optical vouchers is restricted to certain population groups, mainly children, adults on low incomes and, in the case of sight tests, those aged 60 and over.

Publications

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies spent on the preparation of articles for submission to healthcare publications and journals in the last six months. [272406]

Mr. Bradshaw: To identify expenditure on the preparation of all articles for submission to health care publications and journals in the last six months would incur disproportionate costs.

There have been 19 advertorials (paid-for articles) in health care publications and journals funded in whole or in part by the Department's Communications Directorate in the last six months.

This corrects the answer given to the hon. Member on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1314W, which stated that 19 advertorials had been funded in whole or in part by the Department's Communications Directorate over a two-year period.

£19,500 was spent on preparation of these 19 advertorials. Additional associated expenditure was included within agency fees spanning publicity activity for the related publicity campaigns, and to extract this information would incur disproportionate costs.

WALES

Armed Forces Day

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps his Department plans to take to mark Armed Forces Day on 27 June 2009. [271077]

Mr. David: The Secretary of State and I strongly support Armed Forces Day and efforts made to recognise the contribution of our service men and women. We will be marking the day by events in Wales.

In addition to this I have written to the chief executives of all councils in Wales to encourage them to take part in the raising of the special Armed Forces Day flags on 22 June.

Cardiff

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many concerts he has attended at the Millennium Stadium in an official capacity. [274265]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have attended one event at the Millennium Stadium, which included live music. I have also attended a number of Wales Rugby Union matches at this iconic Welsh venue.

Coal Mining

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has visited coal mines in Wales on official business in the last 12 months. [274267]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I am pleased to say that the Big Pit mining museum is in my constituency and I am a regular visitor.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274566]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Figures for the maintenance (including electrical and mechanical engineering and plumbing works) of the Wales Office's London and Cardiff offices:

	£
2004-05	87,388
2005-06	42,972
2006-07	59,707
2007-08	35,843

Figures prior to 2004-05 are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274515]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office complaints procedure and contact details are published on the Wales Office website at:

http://www.walesoffice.gov.uk/about/wales-office-charter/

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many members of staff in his Department were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274314]

Mr. Paul Murphy: One person has been dismissed on grounds of inefficiency since 2006. Records prior to this are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each of the last five years. [274380]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has spent the following amounts on bottled water, mostly on 18.5 ltr bottles for office water coolers:

	£
2004-05	210
2005-06	1,405
2006-07	1,556
2007-08	1,429
2008-09	1,559

The Wales Office stopped buying bottled water in February 2009 when water coolers connected to the mains water supply were introduced.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on furniture in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2008-09. [273749]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office did not buy any furniture in 2008-09 and figures for 2004-05 could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273550]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has in place a number of steps to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, including requiring staff to switch off office equipment at night and a forthcoming programme to reduce the number of printers in the Department and encourage more double-sided printing.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many members of staff his Department employs who are over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years old. [274266]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Eight staff in the Wales Office are aged between 55 and 64. A small number of staff are aged over 65 years old.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274495]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has not spent anything on conference or banqueting services in the last five years.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273774]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department spent £83 on Wales Office pens in 2006 to promote the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274569]

Mr. Paul Murphy: We do not separate out the cost of recycled supplies and print cartridges from our stationery orders and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. We do however use 100 per cent. recycled paper for photocopying and printing and all our old print cartridges are recycled.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274226]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office spent the following on IT training:

	£
2006-07	900.00
2007-08	264.38
2008-09	2978.69

Figures before 2006-07 are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on health and safety training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274268]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The health and safety of staff and visitors is taken very seriously in the Wales Office. When they join the Department, all staff undertake training to give them an basic understanding of their responsibilities. This is provided by the Ministry of Justice and does not incur a direct cost to the Wales Office.

Corporate support staff who are responsible for health and safety issues require a significantly higher degree of knowledge and expertise, and this training is given by specialist organisations at a cost of £1,672 in 2007-08, and £7,631.00 in 2008-09.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274476]

Mr. Paul Murphy: There have been two work placements both undertaken by pupils before they entered university: one in 2008 and one in 2005.

Digital Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps have been taken to ensure that Wales is ready for the digital switchover. [274270]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Wales is well prepared for the digital switchover which starts in Swansea in August 2009 and completes by the end March 2010. Digital UK, the independent non-profit organisation will issue a 100-day countdown.

As part of Digital UK's national information campaign, leaflets explaining switchover and the options available for going digital will be sent to every home in Wales, backed up by both national and local radio and television advertising.

Letters will also be sent to every household for people aged 75 or over, registered blind or partially sighted, on disability benefits or living in a care home for six months or more. Stakeholder meetings and roadshows across Wales have also been held.

Digital Technology

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had on implementation of his digital inclusion responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [274271]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have had a range of meetings with stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors concerning digital inclusion. I launched "Delivering Digital Inclusion—An Action Plan for Consultation" in October 2008 and have held two events with stakeholders in Birmingham and London to hear their views. An analysis of the responses to this consultation process has recently been published.

This analysis indicated strong support for the appointment of an independent Champion for Digital Inclusion, aided by an expert taskforce. I will be making an announcement regarding the champion in the near future.

Economic Situation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the impact of the recession on Wales. [274316]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular meetings with the First Minister to discuss the global recession and its impact on Wales.

The fifth All Wales Economic Summit, recently held in Swansea, shows the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment in supporting and guiding Wales through the recession. These summits are an excellent opportunity for businesses to discuss the challenges they are facing and the assistance they require, enabling me to feed in their comments to the National Economic Council, informing and directing what action is required.

In addition, the UK Government have taken prompt and decisive action to prevent the collapse of the banking system, to support the economy, and to ensure that we get lending going again. This will benefit all of Wales, as it will the UK.

Energy: Cross-border Cooperation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues and *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government on the security of energy supply across the England/Wales border. [273474]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with colleagues in Wales and London on a range of cross border issues.

The security of energy supply is a key priority of both the Government and the Welsh Assembly Government. The 2007 Energy White Paper set out the UK's commitment to a rich mix supply of energy through a wide range of generating technologies including renewables.

Fossil Fuels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the development of small and technically-challenging oil and gas fields in Wales. [274379]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues including energy matters in Wales.

I understand that no proposals for development of any oil or gas field in Wales have to date been submitted for license with the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274533]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has health and safety compliance audits conducted annually by the Ministry of Justice and separately by the trade unions at no cost to my Department. The cost of health and safety works is not recorded separately and can be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on policy to encourage tourism to Wales. [274269]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on a range of issues including tourism.

The Welsh Assembly Government is investing £2.2 million in UK-wide campaign to promote Wales as a top quality tourist destination. Earlier this month £19 million was secured to develop Heritage Tourism in Wales. The project, largely funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and EU Convergence Funds will maximise the economic value of heritage through increasing the volume, length and value of visits to Wales. The project will also ensure that Wales' outstanding heritage is more accessible and enjoyable to visit—both for visitors and people who live in Wales.

Latest available data show that for 2008 (January to December), Wales' market share of all staying trips in UK by UK residents was 7.2 per cent. (UK Tourism Survey).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Homicide: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 10 years were murdered in each police force area in 2007-08. [274073]

Mr. Coaker: Available information is given in the following table.

Homicides currently recorded[1] where victim aged under 10 years, by police force area: England and Wales, 2007-08[2]

Police force area	*Number of victims*
Avon and Somerset	2
Bedfordshire	0
British Transport Police	0
Cambridgeshire	0
Cheshire	1
Cleveland	0
Cumbria	0
Derbyshire	1
Devon and Cornwall	5
Dorset	0
Durham	0
Dyfed Powys	0
Essex	0
Gloucestershire	0
Greater Manchester	1
Gwent	0
Hampshire	1
Hertfordshire	0
Humberside	2
Kent	0
Lancashire	1
Leicestershire	4
Lincolnshire	0
London, City of	0
Merseyside	1
Metropolitan Police	10
Norfolk	1
North Wales	2
North Yorkshire	1
Northamptonshire	1
Northumbria	0
Nottinghamshire	0
South Wales	0
South Yorkshire	4
Staffordshire	0
Suffolk	2
Surrey	3
Sussex	1
Thames Valley	1
Warwickshire	0
West Mercia	0
West Midlands	3
West Yorkshire	3
Wiltshire	0
Total	51

[1] As at 4 November 2008; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Ketamine: Theft

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many thefts of ketamine have been recorded from *(a)* veterinary premises and *(b)* hospitals in each of the last five years. [274988]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. In the Home Office police recorded crime statistics, thefts of ketamine would be recorded under the 'Other theft' offence classification and cannot be separately identified from other thefts recorded within that category.

Metals: Theft

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss with the British Metal Recycling Association its proposals for restricting the activities of illegal scrap operators. [273660]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* The Association of Chief Police Officers organises a Conductive Metals Working Group which meets every two months. The working group consists of a wide range of representatives from police, industry and Government, including officials from the Home Office and BERR and members from the British Metal Recycling Association. The working group discusses the most effective ways of working in partnership to tackle metal theft. This includes measures to restrict the activities of illegal scrap operators through police activity with help from the industry. Potential legislation that would aim to further restrict the activities of illegal scrap operators is also discussed in this forum.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of procedures in place for the investigation of alleged misconduct by the police; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [273872]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office took part in the stocktake of the police complaints system last year led by the Independent Police Complaints Commission to assess how well the current system is operating and how it could be further improved in the light of experience of its operation since April 2004. The IPCC worked very closely with its stakeholders in identifying areas for potential change and also carried out a public confidence survey to hear what the wider public think and expect from the police complaints system. The process resulted in 10 proposals for change, which centred on the following themes:

shifting the focus from identifying blame to putting things right;

resolving the complaint at a local level;

emphasis on quality assurance rather than bureaucratic checks;

providing information more quickly.

The proposals also tie into the recent reform of the police misconduct system and together will have significant impact on investigations into complaints against the police, and how these complaints are resolved.

The proposals for change were published in an IPCC consultation document 'Building on Experience—taking stock of the new police complaints system after four years operational experience', which ran from 23 June and ran until 12 September 2008. In general there was strong support for the proposals, and in light of the responses the IPCC have started to implement those proposals not requiring legislative change.

Police: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Band A council tax police precept after capping was in each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 1997-98. [273107]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following tables:

Precept (Band A) increases by police authority 1997-98 to 2009-10

£

Police authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
Avon and Somerset	34.69	36.57	40.41	45.06	48.44	55.60	74.43
Bedfordshire	35.01	37.23	40.91	44.65	46.84	52.46	62.29
Cambridgeshire	34.02	32.16	34.74	41.64	45.36	63.06	75.54
Cheshire	34.11	35.91	37.52	40.71	43.11	49.03	58.73
Cleveland	36.58	32.29	41.70	43.72	46.34	64.09	80.15
Cumbria	38.80	48.23	52.18	56.15	60.40	66.99	87.14
Derbyshire	34.21	38.20	43.90	47.41	50.25	61.31	74.51
Devon and Cornwall	33.19	32.20	35.68	39.25	41.21	49.20	68.85
Dorset	42.39	47.07	51.42	56.28	61.50	69.00	82.26
Durham	34.80	32.40	33.60	35.10	37.62	42.96	53.04
Essex	36.06	41.52	43.38	45.30	47.34	51.78	61.98
Gloucestershire	34.11	38.49	45.93	51.99	54.70	62.67	95.06
Hampshire	34.50	33.42	35.94	36.72	39.36	50.10	64.86
Hertfordshire	34.34	39.22	42.36	45.33	48.26	54.01	65.52
Humberside	34.98	34.98	36.54	40.20	57.18	63.60	75.36
Kent	34.39	32.27	34.99	37.15	40.17	49.09	63.30
Lancashire	35.50	35.61	38.46	41.73	45.26	49.24	58.38
Leicestershire	34.84	40.81	42.53	45.20	50.35	63.47	69.85
Lincolnshire	46.02	52.62	54.66	57.66	60.24	63.24	69.60
Norfolk	33.72	35.76	42.90	48.06	55.74	66.90	81.30
Northamptonshire	47.04	46.19	50.72	53.10	55.33	70.17	86.73
North Yorkshire	33.15	32.31	34.80	38.03	41.73	59.06	104.00
Nottinghamshire	33.19	36.21	41.03	43.45	46.78	56.78	72.87
Staffordshire	36.49	48.28	52.57	55.62	62.91	67.29	84.33
Suffolk	34.26	34.92	37.44	40.74	44.76	54.72	72.90
Surrey	29.76	44.04	50.16	52.94	55.39	64.29	90.06
Sussex	34.44	33.96	35.46	37.02	39.42	46.56	65.16
Thames Valley	35.19	33.84	37.69	40.23	42.99	48.99	70.83
Warwickshire	34.83	41.39	47.45	51.71	56.78	67.85	78.20
West Mercia	33.91	35.76	39.33	49.37	52.33	69.67	79.87
Wiltshire	36.81	41.85	45.99	50.56	55.51	61.03	73.12
Total Shires	35.19	37.33	40.83	42.69	47.90	56.52	72.47
Greater Manchester	36.07	37.52	40.15	41.81	43.11	45.91	61.10
Merseyside	44.58	47.85	51.63	54.21	56.91	63.17	67.69

Precept (Band A) increases by police authority 1997-98 to 2009-10

£

Police authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
Northumbria	35.15	31.78	33.21	34.71	37.10	38.77	42.53
South Yorkshire	35.53	36.19	37.81	39.51	41.86	49.39	62.87
West Midlands	35.47	32.66	34.13	36.51	38.14	41.25	47.44
West Yorkshire	35.45	34.94	36.51	39.15	40.55	50.61	59.21
Total Mets	36.70	36.35	38.39	40.51	42.33	47.37	56.33
Total England (excl London)	35.56	37.10	40.25	42.19	46.60	54.38	68.71
Metropolitan	42.18	50.99	55.01	60.63	79.23	87.06	106.09
Total England (inc London)	36.73	39.55	42.84	45.12	51.87	59.68	74.77
Dyfed-Powys	32.28	39.72	48.66	56.94	60.60	65.40	82.74
Gwent	32.73	36.24	39.83	49.98	56.02	63.45	79.41
North Wales	32.35	39.03	44.22	52.33	55.15	64.35	84.63
South Wales	32.81	37.50	43.57	53.61	57.05	59.90	69.01
Total Wales	32.59	38.02	43.94	53.23	57.03	62.58	77.07
Total England and Wales	36.49	39.46	42.91	45.57	52.16	59.85	74.91

£

Police authority	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*[2]
Avon and Somerset	83.39	87.56	91.89	98.11	102.88	107.51
Bedfordshire	71.45	74.65	78.37	82.29	90.19	93.71
Cambridgeshire	86.22	90.36	94.86	99.60	104.58	109.80
Cheshire	65.14	68.40	72.33	77.35	90.50	93.80
Cleveland	91.23	95.79	100.48	105.40	115.91	121.65
Cumbria	100.19	103.62	108.72	114.06	119.64	125.50
Derbyshire	81.92	86.01	90.10	94.61	98.96	107.55
Devon and Cornwall	75.59	79.75	83.69	87.82	94.79	99.48
Dorset	90.24	94.74	99.42	104.34	109.50	114.96
Durham	61.02	64.02	67.20	90.48	94.98	98.34
Essex	66.18	69.84	73.98	77.64	81.48	85.50
Gloucestershire	104.47	108.60	113.97	119.66	125.63	129.33
Hampshire	72.24	75.84	79.62	83.58	90.36	94.74
Hertfordshire	75.02	78.73	82.65	86.78	91.11	95.21
Humberside	86.64	90.48	94.98	99.72	104.21	108.27
Kent	70.44	73.92	77.58	81.45	85.50	89.77
Lancashire	67.13	71.81	75.39	83.97	90.64	94.72
Leicestershire	80.07	84.03	88.22	92.64	106.93	110.14
Lincolnshire	74.82	79.62	83.58	87.72	110.53	116.04
Norfolk	92.46	97.02	102.78	109.92	119.04	123.72
Northamptonshire	99.62	102.94	108.07	113.47	119.08	124.44
North Yorkshire	114.33	117.33	120.00	123.60	128.91	132.78
Nottinghamshire	80.08	84.01	88.16	92.52	97.08	101.88
Staffordshire	92.29	96.85	101.69	106.77	110.77	115.14
Suffolk	79.80	83.34	87.24	91.56	99.78	104.04
Surrey	98.04	102.84	108.84	114.18	125.28	131.40
Sussex	70.08	73.50	77.16	81.78	85.80	89.82
Thames Valley	80.34	84.19	88.39	92.79	96.51	100.85
Warwickshire	84.37	88.35	92.63	97.27	109.79	114.15
West Mercia	91.79	95.45	100.16	105.11	110.30	115.75
Wiltshire	80.42	84.42	88.56	92.90	96.89	101.73
Total Shires	80.75	84.65	88.87	93.96	100.44	105.03
Greater Manchester	65.68	70.27	73.78	77.46	83.27	89.51
Merseyside	73.45	77.12	80.97	85.02	89.27	93.74
Northumbria	44.62	46.69	47.85	49.75	52.18	54.21
South Yorkshire	68.53	71.92	75.51	79.28	83.04	85.73

£

Police authority	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]	2009-10[2]
West Midlands	53.39	55.79	58.37	60.98	63.11	65.32
West Yorkshire	68.04	71.37	74.93	78.68	82.41	84.88
Total Mets	61.99	65.29	68.37	71.65	75.37	78.86
Total England (excl London)	76.40	80.17	84.13	88.81	94.66	99.00
Metropolitan	122.72	130.85	140.55	149.07	151.35	149.56
Total England (inc London)	83.94	88.41	93.31	98.60	103.87	107.23
Dyfed-Powys	95.10	95.40	100.14	105.12	110.34	115.80
Gwent	92.75	96.71	101.55	106.63	111.43	116.44
North Wales	101.05	105.96	111.26	118.77	124.12	130.32
South Wales	77.14	80.27	84.28	88.49	92.92	97.57
Total Wales	88.89	92.15	96.71	102.02	106.88	112.11
Total England and Wales	84.22	88.63	93.52	98.81	104.05	107.52

[1] In 2008-09, seven police authorities were proposed with capping action:
Lincolnshire—in year designated (capped). Required to reduce budget from £116.6 million to £100.6 million.
Bedfordshire—Nominated. Will be measured against a notional budget of £95.8 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
Norfolk—Nominated. Will be measured against a notional budget of £137.9 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
Surrey—Nominated. Will be measured against a notional budget of £189.6 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
Cheshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire—Nominated with future designation. Budget increases restricted at a level equivalent to a maximum council tax increase of 3 per cent. in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
[2] In 2009-10, two police authorities are currently being considered for capping action, Derbyshire and Surrey.
Source:
English Police Authorities—DCLG
Welsh Police Authorities—WAG

Police: Firearms

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers of each rank have been authorised to carry a gun in each region in each of the last 10 years. [273469]

Mr. Coaker: The number of authorised firearms officers in police forces in England and Wales for each year since 1996-97 are shown in the following table.

Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOS)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total	6,738	6,585	6,308	6,262	6,064	5,776	5,763	6,096	6,243	6,584	6,728	6,780
Avon and Somerset	165	161	153	150	135	116	84	122	118	117	103	123
Bedfordshire	46	42	50	46	45	48	53	58	56	59	57	53
Cambridgeshire	90	80	80	77	73	56	71	60	60	50	46	49
Cheshire	70	82	70	75	74	81	89	75	76	73	80	72
Cleveland	86	84	78	80	75	85	80	95	100	100	105	97
City of London	88	81	55	73	74	73	72	86	89	86	45	49
Cumbria	108	122	98	98	94	92	87	89	90	89	90	97
Derbyshire	110	100	87	77	81	80	69	70	74	75	69	61
Devon and Cornwall	151	147	82	119	100	108	115	132	123	122	132	142
Dorset	74	72	72	66	67	57	59	60	64	62	67	71
Durham	138	144	96	101	101	86	102	97	103	100	102	89
Essex	228	217	235	228	195	180	184	186	202	205	220	225
Gloucestershire	82	84	79	77	72	71	80	82	93	92	94	95
Greater Manchester	209	182	217	218	240	219	202	205	187	245	217	250
Hampshire	106	112	110	111	100	87	94	94	92	97	83	85
Hertfordshire	42	41	43	52	44	46	47	50	53	52	49	53
Humberside	90	102	102	97	102	96	96	96	101	92	83	87
Kent	150	150	130	136	136	113	93	90	94	94	98	87
Lancashire	132	125	132	143	132	138	129	122	115	123	103	143

Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOS)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Leicestershire	104	94	90	90	85	69	68	51	53	59	67	64
Lincolnshire	82	85	75	78	80	91	87	78	86	87	75	77
Merseyside	147	165	121	96	103	78	84	94	93	129	139	153
Metropolitan	2,035	1,971	1,951	1,977	1,940	1,805	1,823	2,060	2,134	2,331	2,584	2,530
Norfolk	98	102	109	110	114	104	109	114	125	119	127	114
Northamptonshire	92	92	92	75	77	51	56	52	50	56	59	53
Northumbria	173	126	123	114	109	125	99	90	93	98	92	96
North Yorkshire	108	95	83	59	66	66	64	60	56	78	67	67
Nottinghamshire	128	129	120	116	137	136	131	138	138	149	146	137
South Yorkshire	110	108	90	100	98	92	100	98	122	116	118	106
Staffordshire	78	86	92	81	67	71	63	67	76	70	82	82
Suffolk	82	96	101	98	90	90	80	96	88	84	78	74
Surrey	76	61	69	71	72	62	48	53	49	51	45	54
Sussex	180	146	156	131	118	120	141	134	130	129	129	123
Thames Valley	185	194	179	187	185	156	180	172	176	180	186	180
Warwickshire	41	38	44	54	45	50	51	46	53	55	59	63
West Mercia	155	159	139	129	130	125	131	139	141	152	133	163
West Midlands	88	95	92	93	83	111	110	124	134	145	175	177
West Yorkshire	131	114	128	110	117	116	132	140	130	150	148	147
Wiltshire	134	105	88	89	71	71	78	80	74	72	69	67
Dyfed Powys	70	71	67	65	61	77	62	58	79	68	72	67
Gwent	70	59	64	68	66	57	60	71	74	86	64	63
North Wales	72	90	97	92	67	83	75	73	65	57	56	57
South Wales	134	176	169	155	143	138	125	139	134	130	115	138

Proof of Identity: EU Nationals

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity papers of those claiming to be citizens of A8 countries were later found to be false in each year since 2004; and in which countries the false papers purported to be issued. [264733]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested which does not include pre entry detections or detections at ports of entry is as follows:

Country	2004[1]	2005	2006	2007	2009	Total
CZE—Czech	60	72	96	82	50	360
EST—Estonia	12	14	21	8	11	66
HUN—Hungary	37	102	89	17	10	255
LTU—Lithuania	387	573	498	213	155	1,826
LVA—Latvia	17	64	170	90	36	377
POL—Poland	101	153	250	145	117	766
SVK—Slovakia	47	57	92	75	59	330
SVN—Slovenia	19	14	37	22	16	108
Total	680	1,049	1,253	652	454	—

[1] From 1 May 2004.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Retail Trade: Crime

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings of the National Retail Crime Steering Group there have been since February 2008. [275078]

Mr. Coaker: There have been two meetings held on 12 November 2008 and 4 March 2009 making a total of four since its inception in 2007.

The Government emphasised their commitment to supporting businesses and local crime fighting partnerships in tackling retail crime locally, in an update to the 2008-11 Crime Strategy, which was published today. The updated strategy sets securing homes and protecting property as a key objective, including a commitment to develop a Retail Crime Action Plan. This objective sits alongside tackling not tolerating antisocial behaviour; saving lives through tackling violent crime; and countering organised crime. The revised strategy refocuses the priority approaches to tackling crime, to ensure that we meet new challenges and continue to have a tough and proactive approach to all crime.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of the House and can be downloaded from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/crime-strategy-07/cutting-crime-09

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* seconded staff work at the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC); what their individual roles are; how staff are recruited to the UKHTC; and what steps are taken to ensure that staff of the UKHTC are qualified to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking. [272047]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* As of 31 March 2009 there were 35 permanent staff working at the UKHTC of which 10 are secondees from other organisations. All these staff are either recruited to the UKHTC through the agreed recruitment process of the legal entity or through the recruitment processes of partner agencies from which they have been seconded.

All posts are designed to take forward the work outlined in the UKHTC Business Plan and Control Strategy which has a victim centred approach in line with the UK Action Plan. The centre staff have huge experience in dealing with victims of crime including human trafficking. This is further reinforced by the placement of staff from the Poppy Project within the centre and the work of the UKHTC Victim Care Group.

In addition all staff members learning and development needs are assessed through the internal UKHTC reporting system and where applicable appropriate training is provided.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what activities have been undertaken as part of the UK Human Trafficking Centre's Blue Blindfold Campaign; and what the running costs of the campaign *(a)* were in 2008-09 and *(b)* are expected to be in 2009-10. [272049]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* Blue Blindfold is a brand under which it is planned for all publicity material on anti-human trafficking campaigns to be produced. Negotiations are taking place between the UKHTC and UNODC to ensure a future strategic partnership with the latter organisation's Blue Heart campaign.

Approximately, £130,000 was spent in 2008-09 on Blue Blindfold material as part of the "Walk in a Punter" campaign and the more recent awareness raising campaign in Bristol and Leeds.

There is no estimate of running costs for 2009-10.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Care Homes: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of local authority expenditure allocated to care home maintenance in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last five years. [273699]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not collected centrally in the format requested. No estimate has been made.

Council Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum right to buy discount was in the local authorities covered by the Housing (Right to Buy) (Limits on Discount) (Amendment) Order 2003 in each year since 1997; and what plans she has to review the limits in *(a)* these and *(b)* other local authorities. [275579]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is in the following table. The Government have no plans to change the maximum discounts available to qualifying tenants under the right to buy scheme.

	Maximum right to buy discount		
Region/local authority area	*1997-February 1999*	*February 1999-March 2003*	*March 2003-present*
Eastern			
Watford	50,000	34,000	16,000
London			
Barnet	50,000	38,000	16,000
Bexley	50,000	38,000	16,000
Brent	50,000	38,000	16,000
Bromley	50,000	38,000	16,000
Camden	50,000	38,000	16,000
City of London	50,000	38,000	16,000
Croydon	50,000	38,000	16,000
Ealing	50,000	38,000	16,000
Enfield	50,000	38,000	16,000
Greenwich	50,000	38,000	16,000
Hackney	50,000	38,000	16,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	50,000	38,000	16,000
Haringey	50,000	38,000	16,000
Harrow	50,000	38,000	16,000
Hillingdon	50,000	38,000	16,000
Hounslow	50,000	38,000	16,000
Islington	50,000	38,000	16,000
Kensington and Chelsea	50,000	38,000	16,000
Kingston-upon-Thames	50,000	38,000	16,000
Lambeth	50,000	38,000	16,000
Lewisham	50,000	38,000	16,000
Merton	50,000	38,000	16,000
Newham	50,000	38,000	16,000
Redbridge	50,000	38,000	16,000
Richmond upon Thames	50,000	38,000	16,000
Southwark	50,000	38,000	16,000
Sutton	50,000	38,000	16,000
Tower Hamlets	50,000	38,000	16,000
Waltham Forest	50,000	38,000	16,000
Wandsworth	50,000	38,000	16,000
Westminster	50,000	38,000	16,000
South East			
Chiltern	50,000	38,000	16,000
Epsom and Ewell	50,000	38,000	16,000
Hart	50,000	38,000	16,000

Region/local authority area	Maximum right to buy discount 1997-February 1999	February 1999-March 2003	March 2003-present
Oxford	50,000	38,000	16,000
Reading	50,000	38,000	16,000
Reigate and Banstead	50,000	38,000	16,000
Tonbridge and Mailing	50,000	38,000	16,000
Vale of White Horse	50,000	38,000	16,000
West Berkshire	50,000	38,000	16,000

Departmental Offices

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of her Department's *(a)* Executive agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies have regional offices; and where each such office is located. [274906]

Mr. Khan: Several of the Department's Executive public bodies have regional office structures.

The Audit Commission, classified as a public corporation, has regional offices in Leicester, Solihull, Cambourne and London for central region; Bolton, Gateshead and Leeds for northern region; and Bristol and Exeter for southern region.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was established on 1 December 2008, and currently has regional offices in the following locations: Ashford, Birmingham, Bracknell, Bristol, Cambridge, Croydon, Exeter, Gateshead, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Telford, Warrington and Wolverhampton. Its offices in Birmingham, Leeds and Nottingham are co-located with Government offices for the regions. The HCA is undertaking a review of the office accommodation it inherited from its predecessor bodies.

The Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) currently has 11 regional offices in the following locations: Werrington, Peterborough; Whitechapel, London; Witham, Essex; Bolton; Doncaster; Preston; Leamington Spa; Nottingham; Stafford; Horsham, Surrey; and Plymouth. Under the VTS's current estates' review, the offices at Leamington Spa, Nottingham and Horsham are due to close by the end of June 2009.

None of the Department's Executive agencies has regional office structures.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [273886]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) on 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 662W, and the answer given to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W.

The Department has spent £240,931 on hospitality in the last financial year 2008-09. The Department does not record expenditure for entertainment on its finance system and the figures in this reply relate to the broader category of hospitality. All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons information on the expenditure of Executive agencies is not included in her Department's proposals for local spending reports under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [273570]

Mr. Khan: Taking responses to the first phase of consultation on this subject into consideration, the first arrangements for the production of the first local spending report were made using information which is currently available to the Government and which do not impose significant costs on other bodies. We are still consulting on how the reports should develop over time through the second phase of the consultation which closes on 15 May 2009. We will publish a response to the second phase later in the summer when we will outline our plans for the longer term development of the local spending reports including the scope for extending the reports to include other agencies. This will enable the Government to develop local spending reports which are useful and whose cost is likely to justify their benefit.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274236]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not hold data on IT training on its corporate accounting system and such data could be generated only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statistics *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies collect on the level of vacant (i) commercial and (ii) industrial property. [273602]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data collection on vacant properties was reinstated recently on the national non-domestic rates (NNDR1) Supplementary form. Data from this are being validated and are intended to be published shortly.

None of the four Department's agencies collects data in this respect.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her latest estimate is of the number of empty dwellings in England; [273750]

(2) how many dwellings in each region were empty for a period of longer than six months in each of the last five years. [273764]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of the number of dwellings in each region in England that were empty for a period of longer than six months on specific dates in 2004 and 2005, are given in the following table. For details of long term vacant dwellings in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and the latest estimate of the number empty dwellings, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1107W.

Long term empty properties by regions

	1 November2004	*10 October 2005*
North East	21,599	21,473
North West	68,594	68,275
Yorkshire and the Humber	36,550	35,715
East Midlands	26,219	27,925
West Midlands	40,167	35,703
East of England	25,020	25,175
London	42,600	40,081
South East	35,459	36,022
South West	22,434	23,247
Total England	318,642	313,616

The data are from snapshots taken in the autumn of each year and are as reported to communities and local Government by all billing authorities in England on their annual council taxbase (CTB) and CTB (Supplementary) returns.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders have been enforced in each local authority area since the inception of such orders. [273765]

Mr. Iain Wright: To date, 24 Interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) since the legislation came into effect in April 2006. However, local authorities claim that in many cases the threat of an EDMO has been sufficient to make owners take action to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

We always intended that the legislation should be used only as a last resort where other measures have proved unsuccessful. We want to encourage voluntary re-occupation of empty homes but this can only work well where there is realistic compulsion to back them up. EDMOs provide this compulsion and should therefore be a key component of a comprehensive empty property strategy.

Local authority	*Number of interim EDMOs authorised*
London Borough of Bromley	1
Carlisle District Council	1
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	1
London Borough of Hounslow	2
London Borough of Lewisham	5
New Forest District Council	1
Norwich City Council	5
Peterborough City Council	2
South Norfolk District Council	1
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	1
Swale Borough Council	1
Wychavon District Council	1
South Tyneside Borough Council	1
Southend-On-Sea Borough Council	1
Total	24

First Time Buyers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 137W, on housing: sales, what the average contribution made from the public purse to a home purchased under the First-Time Buyers Initiative was in each of the last three years; and what percentage of the average cost of a home purchased under the initiative this represented in each such year. [274891]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table sets out the average contribution from the public purse, and what that represented as a percentage of the average cost, of a home purchased under the First Time Buyers Initiative.

	Average contribution (£)	*Percentage*
2006-07	91,801	47
2007-08	91,080	47
2008-09	77,969	44

Housing Associations: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 972W, on housing associations: finance, which six associations are graded at three. [272334]

Mr. Iain Wright: The six associations graded as 'of concern' can be found in on the TSA's website at:

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/nav.13843

The assessment of the financial position of an association is an ongoing process. Consequently, the six associations graded as 'of concern' have been working with the TSA to resolve their issues.

Housing: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 130 of Budget 2009, in what manner Housing and Planning Delivery Grant has been amended to provide a £20 million efficiency saving. [273361]

Mr. Iain Wright: In our November 2008 allocation announcement and in the supporting papers to the Local Government Settlement which was laid before

Parliament in January 2009, we set out our intention to review options for the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant in light of changing economic circumstances.

We will shortly be publishing a consultation document which outlines our conclusions and the proposed reforms for year two and three of the scheme.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much housing and planning delivery grant funding has been allocated to the London Borough of *(a)* Redbridge and *(b)* Waltham Forest for 2009-10. [274775]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department will be consulting on the formula for HPDG and undertaking a data collection exercise to establish the number of authorities who qualify for each element of grant. We will publish provisional allocations in July 2009 and final allocations of grant will be published and paid in the autumn.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department and its agencies have issued to local authorities on *(a)* interest rates on home appreciation loans, *(b)* repayment terms and equity charges relating to home appreciation loans and *(c)* the use of contractors for works funded by home appreciation loans. [274787]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not issue guidance to local authorities on interest rates for home appreciation loans.

The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 gives local authorities wide powers to provide assistance for repairs, improvements, adaptations and to demolish and re-construct homes. This assistance may take the form of a grant, loan, equity release, or more practical assistance such as home surveys or small repairs services. Local authorities must have policies in place setting out how they will use these powers and they must make summaries of their policy available. ODPM Circular 05/2003 explains the purpose and content of the regulatory reform order.

The Department published 'Mortgage Sales Guidance for Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords' in November 2005 which sets out the procedures that both registered social landlords and local authorities must follow when providing mortgage finance under the regulatory reform order.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average construction cost of a home built *(a)* for social rent and *(b)* for affordable housing with support from the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors was in each year since 1997. [272577]

Margaret Beckett: The national average total cost of providing homes for social rent and intermediate affordable housing through the Homes and Communities Affordable Housing Programme is as follows:

£

Allocation year	*Intermediate*	*Rent*
1998-99	73,111	65,571
1999-2000	81,394	72,262
2000-01	99,898	84,917
2001-02	103,004	97,359
2002-03	110,553	108,348
2003-04	122,566	118,538
2006-07	155,786	136,839
2007-08	165,116	153,025
2008-09	165,683	149,591

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Information is not available for the years 1997-98, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable for the national roll-out of the National Register for Social Housing is. [274817]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Register of Social Housing (NROSH) data collection was rolled out in 2006.

Housing: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions initiated by *(a)* building societies and *(b)* banks there were in (i) Crosby constituency and (ii) Merseyside in each of the last five years. [273611]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2108

The CML data on repossessions are no longer freely available from their website. For detailed time series information members of the public can request to subscribe to CML to obtain access to a restricted website.

The Financial Services Authority data is available on their website at

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

The CML and FSA release slightly different figures. The CML data is for repossessions on first-charge mortgages only, including Buy-to-Let mortgages, as issued by their members. CML estimate that their lenders currently account for 95 per cent. of mortgage lending. The FSA data, as well as covering possessions on first-charge mortgages, covers possessions on second-charge loans by regulated firms (many second charge lenders are not regulated) but doesn't cover possessions as comprehensively on Buy-to-Let mortgages, as some of these are from unregulated firms. The overall effect of the differences is that the FSA's statistics on possessions are slightly higher.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1409-10W, on the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), if she will make it her policy to ensure that the IPC's *(a)* staff, *(b)* chief executive officer, *(c)* commissioners and *(d)* board members are appointed on terms which provide for a notice period of no more than three months. [274937]

Margaret Beckett: The notice to be given by the CEO, commissioners and board members will be agreed in the normal way when the terms of their specific contracts are agreed following a successful interview process. The notice period applying to other staff will be determined by IPC in the light of its business needs.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local spending reports prepared under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 will include information on budgets. [274764]

Mr. Khan: The first Local Spending Report, under section 6 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 was published on 29 April 2009 using outturn data from 2006-07. These are the latest available audited data and are not subject to change as budgeted data may be.

The consultation on Local Spending Reports, with a deadline of 15 May 2009, considers how the reports should develop over time. The Government will consider all the representations submitted and we will publish our response later this year.

Local Government: Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for implementation in local government of the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme. [273572]

John Healey: The local government sector has a strong track record of delivering substantial value for money savings. Both central and local government have identified more scope for increased efficiencies to be driven out in the current 2007 CSR period and beyond as supported by the findings of the Operational Efficiency Programme. Councils are raising their ambition for efficiency and the Government are working with the sector to help authorities deliver that ambition.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her latest estimate is of the size of the deficit of the Local Government Pension Scheme; [273569]

(2) what steps her Department plans to take to reduce the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme; [273599]

(3) what proportion of money in the Local Government Pension Scheme is invested in equities. [273601]

John Healey: When Local Government Pension Scheme funds in England and Wales were last valued on 31 March 2007, total assets of £132 billion represented some 83 per cent. of the scheme's liabilities of £159 billion. Equities totalled 67 per cent. of the scheme's assets with a market value of £88.4 billion. For the year ending 31 March 2008, expenditure on benefits totalled £5.2 billion compared with an income of £10 billion.

The next triennial valuation exercise takes place on 31 March 2010 to assess the scheme's funding position, including the effect of recent stock market conditions. Any funding deficit identified will be recovered through locally agreed recovery plans, typically over a 20 year period, and be reflected in contribution rates set for the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 and beyond.

Discussions continue with stakeholders to ensure that the scheme remains affordable, viable and fair to taxpayers.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many reports the monitoring officer in each local authority has made in each of the last five years; in respect of which authority each report was made, and on what date; and what steps her Department took in each case. [273795]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* support, *(b)* advice and *(c)* training her Department makes available to local authority monitoring officers on the discharge of their duties. [273796]

John Healey: My Department does not offer support, advice or training directly to local authority monitoring officers. Support is provided by the Standards Board for England through its statutory and non-statutory guidance on the code of conduct for members and the local standards framework; its dedicated monitoring officers' helpline; its seminars and annual assembly. The board is also developing a training manual which will assist monitoring officers when providing training to members on the code of conduct and the standards framework.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of extending the Mortgage Rescue Scheme to households in negative equity; and if she will make a statement. [271371]

Margaret Beckett: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme was launched nationally on 1 January 2009. In the Budget 2009 it was announced that the scheme would be expanded to include some households in negative equity from 1 May. Following the Budget, an additional £80 million has been made available for the scheme, funded from the Department's end-year flexibility.

The main costs of including households in negative equity will usually be met by lenders who have agreed to write down levels of negative equity on a case-by-case basis. However, these cases will have a higher than average unit cost as they will be suitable for Government Mortgage to Rent rather than the Shared Equity option.

The extension of the scheme to include households in negative equity was made quickly in direct response to feedback on delivery of the scheme at local level, and will contribute to helping up to 6,000 households through the scheme.

We have also relaxed the regional property price caps for Mortgage Rescue, to enable more households to benefit from this form of support. This means for example in the South West the cap has increased from £195,000 to £205,000, thereby allowing more households to be considered for the scheme.

We have also announced a further £20 million funding for local authorities to enable them to offer households small loans or one off payment to help prevent repossession or eviction. Homelessness prevention work by local authorities is continuing to have a major impact—with the number of households being accepted homeless[1] being reduced by over 60 per cent. since 2003. The use of temporary accommodation also continues to fall—this is a remarkable achievement given the current economic climate.

We are committed to ensuring households at risk of repossession attending court receive support on the day. Court desks provide free, immediate legal advice and representation at County court hearings, and we have worked closely with the Legal Services Commission to review the provision of court desks across the country. During the current financial year we are providing increased funding through local authorities to provide court desk provision in up to 80 County courts—double our commitment in 2008-09.

[1] Owed a main duty under the Homelessness Act.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions initiated by *(a)* building societies and *(b)* banks there were in (i) the London borough of Bexley and (ii) Greater London in each of the last five years. [273701]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this is on its website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2108

The CML data on repossessions are no longer freely available from their website. For detailed time series information members of the public can request to subscribe to CML to obtain access to a restricted website.

The Financial Services Authority data are available on its website at

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

The CML and FSA release slightly different figures. The CML data are for repossessions on first-charge mortgages only, including Buy-to-Let mortgages, as issued by their members. CML estimate that their lenders currently account for 95 per cent. of mortgage lending. The FSA data, as well as covering possessions on first-charge mortgages, cover possessions on second-charge loans by regulated firms (many second charge lenders are not regulated) but do not cover possessions as comprehensively on Buy-to-Let mortgages, as some of these are from unregulated firms. The overall effect of the differences is that the FSA's statistics on possessions are slightly higher.

National Policy Statements

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the location-specific elements of national policy statements will include statements that development should not take place in specific areas. [274789]

Mr. Iain Wright: The majority of national policy statements (NPSs) are not expected to be locationally specific. Where they are, for example the airports and nuclear NPSs, the intention is primarily to identify suitable or potentially suitable locations for development, rather than to identify locations which are unsuitable for development.

Non-domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how long transitional relief for the 2010 business rates revaluation will last; and what assessment has been made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* equity of the 2005 rates revaluation transitional relief scheme after its implementation. [273568]

John Healey: The 2010 business rates revaluation takes effect from 1 April 2010. We will introduce transitional arrangements to phase in changes in rate bills as a result of the revaluation. We will consult upon the details of the transitional arrangements, including the length of the scheme, later in the summer. The Government continue to keep the rating system under review, including the operation of transitional arrangements.

Property Development: Derelict Land

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of brown field land was developed in each year since 1997. [272637]

Mr. Iain Wright: The area of previously developed land that was developed in each year since 1997 is available in live table P261 on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/xls/1133773.xls

For ease of reference I quote the details as follows:

	Hectares
1997	8,730
1998	7,950

	Hectares
1999	[1]
2000	8,530
2001	9,490
2002	8,270
2003	11,030
2004	6,040
2005	8,880
2006	4,570

[1] Not published
Note:
The 2006 figure is provisional

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what evaluation he has made of the effectiveness of use of penalty notices for disorder amongst 10 to 15-year-olds in the six pilot areas. [274153]

Mr. Straw: The evaluation report on penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for 10 to 15-year-olds in the six pilot areas was published on 5 November 2008. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. We are currently revising the Police Operational Guidance to take into account the recommendations of the evaluation in collaboration with interested groups.

Coroners

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many narrative reports he has received from HM coroners under Coroners Rule 43 since its revision in July 2008; which inquests gave rise to each such report; which coroner presided in each case; in which of those inquests the coroner sat without a jury; and to which Government Department each report was referred. [274095]

Bridget Prentice: Between 17 July 2008 and 7 May 2009 230 Rule 43 reports have been received from HM Coroners. Table A shows details of the coroners, deputy coroners and assistant deputy coroners who submitted the reports. 49 of the reports were directed at Government Departments and details are shown in table B. Information is not held centrally on the specific inquests which gave rise to each report or which of these inquests sat without a jury. The Lord Chancellor will be publishing a summary of rule 43 reports received since 17 July 2008 shortly.

Table A—Number of Rule 43 reports issued by HM Coroners between 17 July 2008 and 7 May 2009

HM Coroner	Number of Rule 43 reports issued
Avon	
Paul Forrest, Coroner	3
Terry Moore, Deputy Coroner	2
Berkshire	
Peter Bedford, Coroner	2
Birmingham and Solihull	
Aidan Cotter, Coroner	6
Black Country	
Robin Balmain, Coroner	2
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	
Michael Singleton, Coroner	3
Bournemouth, Poole and East Dorset	
Sherill Payne, Coroner	2
Brighton and Hove	
Veronica Hamilton-Dooley, Coroner	1
John Hooper, Deputy Coroner	2
Buckinghamshire	
Roger Hulett, Coroner	1
Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan	
Mary Hassell, Coroner	16
Carmarthenshire	
William Owen, Coroner	2
Cheshire	
Nicholas Rheinberg, Coroner	5
Janet Napier, Deputy Coroner	3
Jean Harkin, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Geoff Roberts, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Cumbria: South and East	
Ian Smith, Coroner	2
Derby and South Derbyshire	
Robert Hunter, Coroner	6
Louise Pinder, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Devon: Greater and Exeter	
Elizabeth Earland, Coroner	5
Darran Salter, Deputy Coroner	1
Devon: Plymouth and South West	
Ian Arrow, Coroner	1
Andrew Cox, Deputy	2
Devon: South and Torbay	
Ian Arrow, Coroner	1
Durham and Darlington	
Andrew Tweddle, Coroner	2
East Riding and Kingston Upon Hull	
Nicola Mundy, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Essex and Thurrock	
Caroline Beasley-Murray, Coroner	1
Lorna Taghavini, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Gloucestershire	
Alan Craikmore, Coroner Great Yarmouth	1
Nicholas Holroyd, Deputy Coroner	1
Gwent	
David Bowen, Coroner	1
Hampshire: North East	
Andrew Bradley, Coroner	1
Hampshire: Portsmouth and South East	
David Horsley, Coroner	3
Hertfordshire	
Edward Thomas, Coroner	5
David Pidgeon, Deputy coroner	1
Graham Danbury, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Kent: Central and South East	
Rachel Redman, Coroner	2

Table A—Number of Rule 43 reports issued by HM Coroners between 17 July 2008 and 7 May 2009

HM Coroner	Number of Rule 43 reports issued
Kent: North West	
Alan Blumsden, Deputy Coroner	1
Lincolnshire: North and Grimsby	
Paul Kelly, Coroner	1
Lincolnshire: West	
Roger Atkinson, Coroner	3
Liverpool	
Andre Rebello, Coroner	1
London: City	
Paul Matthews, Coroner	3
London: East	
Elizabeth Stearns, Coroner	1
London: South	
Roy Palmer, Coroner	1
Selena Lynch, Deputy	1
London: Inner North	
Andrew Reid	2
London: Inner South	
Gail Ellman, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Andrew Harris, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Selena Lynch, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Sir Michael Wright, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
London: Inner West	
Paul Knapman, Coroner	1
Shirley Radcliffe, Deputy Coroner	1
London: West	
Elizabeth Pygott, Deputy Coroner	1
Lorna Taglianini, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Manchester: City	
Nigel Meadows, Coroner	12
Manchester: Greater - South	
John Pollard, Coroner	14
Joanne Kearsley, Deputy Coroner	6
Manchester: Greater - West	
Jennifer Leeming, Coroner	2
Manchester: Greater - North	
Simon Nelson, Coroner	1
Milton Keynes	
Rodney Comer, Coroner	1
Tom Osborne, Deputy Coroner	2
Norfolk: Greater	
William Armstrong, Coroner	7
Northamptonshire	
Tom Osborne, Assistant Deputy Coroner	3
Pembrokeshire	
Michael Howells, Coroner	3
Peterborough	
Gordon Ryall, Coroner	2
Preston and West Lancashire	
James Adley, Coroner	1
Sefton, St. Helens and Knowsley	
Christopher Sumner, Coroner	1
Shropshire: Mid and North	
John Ellery, Coroner	3

Table A—Number of Rule 43 reports issued by HM Coroners between 17 July 2008 and 7 May 2009

HM Coroner	Number of Rule 43 reports issued
Somerset: East	
Tony Williams, Coroner	1
Somerset: West	
Michael Rose, Coroner	2
Staffordshire: South	
Andrew Haigh, Coroner	17
Staffordshire: North and Stoke-on-Trent	
Ian Smith, Coroner	1
Sunderland	
Derek Winter, Coroner	4
Karen Walsh, Deputy Coroner	1
West Sussex	
Penelope Schofield, Coroner	4
Wiltshire and Swindon	
David Masters, Coroner	4
Peter Harvey, Deputy Coroner	1
David Ridley, Assistant Deputy Coroner	2
Worcestershire	
Geraint Williams, Coroner	1
Yorkshire: South - Western	
Christopher Dorries	6
Yorkshire: West - Eastern	
David Hinchcliffe, Coroner	4
Richard Manning, Deputy Coroner	1
Mary Burke, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Kevin McLaughlin, Assistant Deputy Coroner	1
Melanie Williamson, Assistant Deputy Coroner	3
Yorkshire: West - Western	
Roger Whittaker, Coroner	3
Paul Marks, Assistant Deputy	1
Total Rule 43 reports issued	230

Table B—Government Departments receiving Rule 43 reports between 17 July 2008 and 7 May 2009

Government Department	Number of Rule 43 reports
Department for Communities and Local Government	1
Department of Health	8
Department of Transport	12
Department of Work and Pensions	2
Driver and Learning Agency	2
Environment Agency	1
Government Office for the South West	1
Health and Safety Executive	1
Highways Agency	6
Home Office	3
Ministry of Defence	6
Ministry of Justice	4
Welsh Assembly Government	2
Total number of Rule 43 reports referred to Government Departments:	49

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274567]

Maria Eagle: The cost of building maintenance in each of the last five years is as follows:

	£
2004-05	161,861,665
2005-06	160,616,396
2006-07	205,042,692
2007-08	289,179,963
2008-09	229,563,822
Total	1,046,264,538

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274520]

Mr. Hanson: Complaints from these sources about individual members of staff are dealt with in accordance with the procedure outlined on the Ministry of Justice's website at

www.justice.gov.uk/contactus

All other complaints from these sources about the Department's policies and procedures and the services it provides are referred to the appropriate officials for a response. Officials aim to respond to those complaints within 15 working days.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which services his Department and its predecessor have outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274445]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice does not hold centralised data on the services that the Department and its predecessors have outsourced in each of the last five years. This is because prior to 1 April 2009, procurement was undertaken in numerous parts of the Ministry of Justice and its predecessors and the information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

A new procurement directorate for the whole of the Ministry of Justice was created on 1 April following an Office of Government Commerce procurement capability review recommendation. Part of the remit of the new directorate is to bring together information on all Ministry of Justice contracts.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his letter of 27 April 2009 to the hon. Member for Torbay following the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1067-9W, on departmental surveys, whether the budget for catering of £100 per celebration lunch for his Department's staff is for each event or per head. [274591]

Mr. Straw: The £100 per celebration lunch is per event not per person. On average, 18 people attend each celebration lunch. The average cost per head for those in attendance at the lunch has been £5.55.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274575]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is committed to reusing, recycling and reducing waste. Wherever possible, office supplies are from recycled sources and all white paper for printing and photocopying across the Ministry now contains a minimum of 80 per cent. recycled fibre. It is not possible, however, to determine what proportion of total expenditure on office supplies relates to recycled products. To do so would require a detailed analysis of an extremely large number of invoices which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry's financial systems do not record information at a level of detail that would enable it to identify expenditure specifically on ink cartridges. Some analysis was, however, undertaken for the financial year ending 31 March 2008. This identified expenditure of £1,346,248 from amounts separately identified on invoices.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274220]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007. Central spend on IT training in each of the last two years in the MOJ, excluding the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), is set out in the following table.

	£
2007-08	47,000
2008-09	41,000

Responsibility for learning and development training is devolved to business groups within the MOJ. In the year 2006-07 the former Department for Constitutional Affairs spent £117,118 on centrally provided IT training. Comparative figures for the years 2005-06 and 2004-05 are not available. In NOMS, IT training spend has been devolved to local level and details are not held centrally. As such, the total spend on IT training across the MOJ could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Most IT training is provided by experienced members of staff or local business training teams. Spend on IT training has declined in recent years with less recruitment and a move to provide more learning through coaching rather than training courses. Training programmes, which support the introduction of new processes in business areas, can also include an element of IT training.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many work placements his Department and its predecessor offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274481]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not hold all of this information centrally. Business groups including Prison Service establishments, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the National Offender Management Service headquarters, Corporate Performance Group and individual probation boards have accommodated placements mainly in conjunction with local universities, colleges and schools.

Additionally, the MOJ has provided paid work for interns through the ethnic minority summer development programme and the disability summer placement scheme as follows:

	Ethnic Minority Summer Development Programme interns in MOJ	*Disability Summer Placement Scheme interns in MOJ*
2004	8	3
2005	10	3
2006	4	1
2007	3	2
2008	6	0

Participants are a mixture of undergraduates and graduates.

Family Courts: Greater London

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with magistrates in Waltham Forest and Redbridge on family court provision prior to the transfer of the family court to Stratford. [271843]

Bridget Prentice: There was full public consultation in 2006 on proposals to form a network of family courts in London. This consultation made specific reference to the transfer of Redbridge and Waltham Forest family proceedings court work to Stratford. During the consultation period, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Camberwell and Peckham (Ms Harman) and officials met with the local MP and representative JPs from Waltham Forest to discuss the proposals. The formal response to consultation was published in December 2006. Her Majesty's Courts Service is fully involving Waltham Forest magistrates as plans are implemented, through ongoing dialogue. Redbridge family hearings transferred to Stratford in August 2008.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was collected in victim surcharges in each Court Service area in February and March 2009. [274160]

Maria Eagle: The victims surcharge is a £15 charge imposed on offenders ordered to pay fines by magistrates or Crown courts in England and Wales in connection with offences committed on or after 1 April 2007.

Victim surcharges collected by each court service area for February and March 2009 were as follows:

£

Area	*February 2009*	*March 2009*
Avon and Somerset	16,417	19,102
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	44,159	50,787
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	38,442	42,875
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	29,937	33,324
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	30,539	36,336
Cheshire and Merseyside	32,916	38,548
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	36,846	40,680
Cumbria and Lancashire	33,602	41,791
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	27,546	38,483
Devon and Cornwall	15,619	18,481
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	20,041	23,322
Greater Manchester	34,866	42,513
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	19,844	22,038
Humber and South Yorkshire	21,638	44,344
Kent	15,937	18,685
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire	23,991	24,807
London	85,197	104,091
Mid and West Wales	4,413	5,872
North and West Yorkshire	32,773	37,569
North Wales	8,362	12,290
South East Wales	25,458	28,571
Surrey and Sussex	19,523	26,153
Thames Valley	19,697	25,983
Total	637,763	776,645

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274538]

Mr. Wills: The MOJ does not compile health and safety spend across its agencies and other bodies centrally and could do so only at disproportionate cost. However, spend for the Department headquarters on health and safety measures is:

	£
2004-05	65,000
2005-06	54,300
2006-07	106,700
2007-08	123,100
2008-09	122,800

The MOJ corporate health and safety branch provides a professional health and safety advisory and technical service, including assistance and information to all levels of management to enable compliance with relevant Health and Safety legislation. This includes auditing of

health and safety management systems and reviewing performance across the MOJ.

The MOJ annual report provides an assurance on health and safety performance on how the MOJ plans to discharge its legal responsibility in order to comply with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated relevant statutory provisions.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of the Managing Surplus Employees scheme in the National Offender Management Service in financial year 2009-10; [273537]

(2) what support his Department provides for employees of the National Offender Management Service redeployed under the terms of the Managing Surplus Employees scheme; [273538]

(3) how many surplus employees as defined under the Managing Surplus Employees scheme of the National Offender Management Service *(a)* have been redeployed, *(b)* have been made redundant and *(c)* have left the Service for another reason in the last 12 months. [273539]

Mr. Hanson: As a result of changes being made within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) staff are being redeployed either within the agency or to roles elsewhere within the Ministry of Justice.

The additional costs for managing the surplus employee system within NOMS in the financial year 2009-10 is estimated to be in the region of £55,000. Costs are relatively small, because the service is able to use new technology to manage these process.

Staff who are made surplus are subject to redeployment procedures but remain the responsibility of an identified line manager who is required to maintain support, identify any temporary work and assist the employee to find a new role. A range of support arrangements is currently being implemented, including retraining where this is appropriate. Staff who need to relocate to find a new post are able to apply for assistance with additional travel or relocation under existing NOMS arrangements for staff transfer.

Information on the outcome of the redeployment arrangements are as yet unavailable until the new IT is fully functional at the end of May. It is NOMS policy to avoid redundancies and to date no member of staff has been made redundant as a result of the redeployment arrangements.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many National Offender Management Service employees are registered as surplus under the terms of the Managing Surplus Employees scheme. [273540]

Mr. Hanson: We have currently got 184 employees registered as surplus under the terms of the Managing Surplus Employees scheme.

Staff are supported while on this list to assist them in finding a new posting. No staff are being made compulsorily redundant as a direct result of this scheme.

National Offender Management Service: Recruitment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the merits of ensuring that persons with a probation service employment background can apply for arising vacancies within the interventions and substance misuse group of the National Offender Management Service. [274277]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service fully recognises the benefits of utilising the specialist skills of probation staff in appropriate posts. Where there is a business need for a particular post to be filled by someone with a probation service employment background, groups may second or advertise externally in accordance with National Offender Management Service and civil service recruitment policy.

National Offender Management Service: Secondment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to extend the two-year term of probation service secondees in the National Offender Management Service. [274276]

Mr. Hanson: All secondments into the civil service are limited to a two-year term in line with the civil service commission's recruitment principles. Extension of this period can exceptionally be sought from the civil service commissioners if required.

Offences Against Children

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders aged 21 years or over convicted of offences related to sexual activity with a child under 13 received *(a)* immediate custody, *(b)* a suspended sentence, *(c)* a community sentence, *(d)* a fine, *(e)* a conditional or absolute discharge and *(f)* other treatment in the last year for which figures are available. [274151]

Mr. Straw: The available figures are shown in the following table. The proportion of those given various disposals is shown as a percentage of those sentenced. Lags in time between conviction and sentencing may mean that the total numbers convicted and sentenced in a year may not match. Data held by the Ministry of Justice record the age of the offender at the time of sentencing, and the figures show all offenders aged 21 and over at that point.

Percentage[1] of offenders sentenced to disposals for sexual activity with a child under 13, 2003-07

	Percentage discharged	Percentage fined	Percentage given community sentence	Percentage given suspended sentence	Percentage given immediate custody	Percentage otherwise dealt with	Total persons sentenced
2007							
Familial sexual offences with a child under 13	0.0	0.0	8.0	16.0	76.0	0.0	25

Percentage[1] of offenders sentenced to disposals for sexual activity with a child under 13, 2003-07

	Percentage discharged	*Percentage fined*	*Percentage given community sentence*	*Percentage given suspended sentence*	*Percentage given immediate custody*	*Percentage otherwise dealt with*	*Total persons sentenced*
Rape or attempted rape of a child under 13	0.0	0.0	5.8	2.9	91.3	0.0	69
Sexual activity with a child under 13	0.0	0.0	23.3	9.3	65.1	2.3	129
Sexual assault of a female child under 13	1.7	0.0	14.5	9.8	73.6	0.4	235
Sexual assault of a male child under 13	0.0	0.0	15.0	7.5	77.5	0.0	40
All above	0.8	0.0	15.3	8.8	74.3	0.8	498

[1] Due to rounding rows may not sum to exactly 100 per cent.

Notes:

1. These data are based on the principle offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prisons: Complaints

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints the prison service internal complaints process received from prisoners in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [272827]

Mr. Hanson: The number of internal complaints submitted by prisoners between the fiscal years 2000-01 and 2007-08 is shown in the table. Data for prisoner complaints was not centrally recorded before the fiscal year 2000-01 and to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

	Total number of complaints	*Average prison population*
2000-01	33,529	64,680
2001-02	36,752	67,633
2002-03	70,053	71,498
2003-04	120,701	73,658
2004-05	132,083	74,808
2005-06	159,467	76,564
2006-07	186,028	78,880
2007-08	192,431	80,676

A revised complaints procedure was introduced in February 2002, which, among other improvements, gave prisoners greater access to complaint forms.

An effective complaints system underpins much of prison life. An efficient system for dealing with prisoners' requests and complaints aims to given prisoners confidence in the integrity of the system and so helps to ensure that the prison service meets its obligation of dealing fairly, openly and humanely with prisoners.

Ranby Prison: Explosives

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received on a controlled explosion at HMP Ranby on 1 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [275143]

Mr. Hanson: I received a report on 5 May summarising the operational incidents which had taken place from 1 May to 4 May. The incident at Ranby appeared on this report. This is now the subject of a police investigation.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Census: Databases

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements have been made for the *(a)* retention and *(b)* maintenance of the address database compiled for the 2011 census once the census has been completed. [274197]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what arrangements have been made for the (a) retention and (b) maintenance of the address database compiled for the 2011 Census once the Census has been completed. (274197)

Although the Address Register strategy takes account of other national addressing initiatives it is only being developed for the 2011 Census. Subject to having appropriate data sharing agreements in place, it should provide a one-off quality improvement to each of the main address sources. The database developed for the Census will be retained by the Office for National Statistics. No plans are in place at present for the maintenance of the database.

Addresses returned on census forms as verified addresses are addresses that belong to the ONS to use for statistical purposes only, and will be kept by ONS.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agency paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275209]

Kevin Brennan: The amount of interest paid to suppliers in 2006-07 and 2007-08 for late payment can be found in the Cabinet Office annual report and resources accounts 2006-07 and 2007-08, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. No interest has been paid to suppliers for late payment in 2008-09. The Cabinet Office does not have any agencies.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 800-1W, on departmental buildings, and of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 467W, on 10 Downing Street: repairs and maintenance, how much was spent on the renovation of lavatories in Downing Street properties in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [274142]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not available in the format requested. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) on 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 801W.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274213]

Kevin Brennan: Information relating to spend on IT training for staff is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273943]

Mr. Simon: The total expenditure incurred by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009 was £1,708.23.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273944]

Mr. Simon: The following expenditure has been incurred by DIUS in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009 by (i) the Secretary of State, (ii) Lord Drayson and (iii) officials. Costs for car hire, which officials will also in part have utilised, is placed under the relevant Minister.

(a) (i) £642.30
(ii) £502.43
(iii) £497.50
(b) (i) Zero
(ii) Zero
(iii) £66.00
(c) (i) Zero
(ii) Zero
(iii) Zero

Departmental Assets

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assets his Department shares with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [274065]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) has a separate asset register from the Department for Children, Schools and Families' (DCSF). No assets are shared. However, DCSF provides DIUS with a wide range of corporate shared services. These include elements of information technology infrastructure and the provision of office space, building services and furniture at three DCSF sites: Moorfoot in Sheffield, Castle View house in Runcorn and Mowden hall in Darlington.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each year since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [274561]

Mr. Simon: The Department's building services are provided through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), which manage and maintain the buildings that DIUS occupies.

BERR charges DIUS for maintenance costs at Kingsgate house, London. These charges are as follows:

	£
June 2007-December 2007	0
January 2008-March 2008	27,089
April 2008-March 2009	82,810

Maintenance costs cannot be separately identified in the amount that DIUS has paid to DCSF for office space and building services.

The Department has a contract for an integrated facilities management service for the buildings in Teddington occupied by the National Physical Laboratory and the National Measurement Office (formerly the National Weights and Measures Laboratory).

The cost of maintenance is not paid separately but the amount of the facilities management payment which relates to maintenance equated to approximately:

	£
July 2007 to March 2008	1,125,000
April 2008 to March 2009	1,550,000

The cost of facilities management on the site (including maintenance) was recovered from the occupiers of the buildings: NPL Management Ltd. and the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (an executive agency of DIUS).

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each year since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [274539]

Mr. Simon: It is not possible to identify separately all of the Department's expenditure on health and safety compliance. The management of health and safety involves a combination of elements, each of which is part of a wider role or service. The amounts spent on special furniture to meet the health and safety needs of particular members of staff are as follows:

June 2007 to March 2008: At least £4,037. Full amount identifiable only at disproportionate cost, because records were not kept separately for DIUS in all buildings.

April 2008 to March 2009: £2,944.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Discrimination: Religion

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment has been made of the likely effect of the provisions of the European Commission's Draft Discrimination Directive on *(a)* faith schools and *(b)* public authorities procuring services from faith groups. [273393]

Maria Eagle: EU competence in relation to education is restricted to contributing to the development of quality education and encouraging member states in their responsibility for their own educational systems and content of teaching. The draft directive cannot therefore affect faith schools in the UK. We are seeking to make this clear in the text during negotiations on the directive.

The draft directive proposes to prohibit discrimination in the provision of services on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. It applies to those who are providing the service and not those who are procuring the service. Any organisation that is delivering a service, whether a faith group or not, will have to deliver that service in a non-discriminatory way. This is already a requirement in UK law on three of the grounds covered by the draft directive (religion or belief, disability and sexual orientation) and we are introducing protection from discrimination on the remaining ground (age) in the Equality Bill. The directive will not therefore affect public authorities procuring services from faith groups.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Operating Costs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost to the public purse of the Equality and Human Rights Commission has been in each year since its establishment. [274138]

Maria Eagle: The costs of the Equality and Human Rights Commission are shown in the annex A: core tables of the Government Equalities Office's annual report and Accounts. More recent forecast outturn data are now available and are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Resource*	*£000 Capital*
2007-08	52,915	6,707
2008-09	59,000	1,000

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost to the public purse of *(a)* the Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* the Equal Opportunities Commission and *(c)* the Disability Rights Commission was in each of the three years up to October 2007. [274139]

Maria Eagle: Outturn for the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) for the three years up to October 2007 is published in Annex A: core tables of the Government Equalities Office's annual report and accounts 2007-08.

Final figures for CRE, EOC and DRC are now available for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007 and are as follows:

1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007

Commissions	*Resource*	*£000 Capital*
Disability Rights Commission	10,575	-61
Commission for Racial Equality	9,847	0
Equal Opportunities Commission	3,945	-282

Equality Bill

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment has been made of the effect of implementation of the provisions of the Equality Bill on the expenditure of local authorities. [273394]

Maria Eagle: The Equality Bill will strengthen and streamline discrimination law. These measures will result in both costs (such as those arising from organisations familiarising themselves with the new legislation) and savings (such as those resulting from the simplification of the legislation).

The impact of the Equality Bill is set out in the impact assessment published alongside the Bill on 27 April. The impact on the expenditure of local authorities has not been identified separately. For the 22,000 public authorities (which includes the 420 or so local authorities) the impact assessment identifies the following costs and benefits:

Costs in the first year—£18.6 million to £ 52.1 million

Benefits in the first year—£12.2 million to £41.4 million

Recurring costs from year two onwards—£5.5 million to £39.0 million

Recurring benefits from year two onwards—£12.6 million to £42.9 million

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Lottery Fund: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to the Big Lottery Fund of empty property business rates on its empty properties recorded on the Government's e-PIMS database was in 2008-09. [274082]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund has advised that it did not pay empty property business rates on empty properties during 2008-09.

Big Lottery Fund: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1587W, on the Big Lottery Fund: travelling people, what the purpose of each grant to each organisation was. [274140]

Barbara Follett: Pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 4 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1587W, the Big Lottery Fund have advised what the purpose of each grant to support travelling people was. I am arranging for this information to be deposited in the House Library.

BMRB Social Research

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has paid BMRB Social Research in respect of its work in the Taking Part survey in each of the last three years. [274729]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The Taking Part survey collects data about people's engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport, and is a national statistic.

Taking Part was commissioned in 2005 and is jointly funded (approximately 50:50) by DCMS and four partner bodies—Arts Council England, English Heritage, Sport England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. BMRB Social Research is contracted to conduct the survey fieldwork. Between 2006-07 and 2008-09, DCMS contributed the following levels towards the cost of BMRB Social Research's work:

	£ million
2006-07	1.3
2007-08	1.4
2008-09	1.2

In addition to supporting core running costs of the survey, these figures include other expenses such as additional analysis, piloting and questionnaire reviews.

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274528]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For each of the items above, in most circumstances the team that handled the original issue will review the complaint.

Many communications into the Department, including complaints, are managed by the Department's public engagement and recognition unit. If a complaint is serious in nature the request will be drawn to the attention of a relevant senior civil servant, up to and including the permanent secretary.

There are also formal procedures in place within the Department for issues such as the internal review of Freedom of Information requests and the public appointments process, besides the usual array of external complaints and review procedures available via the courts and the parliamentary ombudsman.

Further details on complaints processes can be found on the DCMS website at:

www.culture.gov.uk

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) monetary value of the contract was in each case. [273064]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Consultancy contracts awarded by the Department (excluding Non-departmental public bodies that we sponsor) in the last 12 months are as follows:

(a) KPMG

Nil

(b) PricewaterhouseCoopers

(i) To provide advice on Olympic Park Sponsorship Strategy; (ii) £9,900;

(i) To provide advice on the wind Up of Regional Cultural Consortiums; (ii) £55,000;

(i) To provide commercial, economic and financial analysis in respect of London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; (ii) the Department has let this contract under a framework agreement. The Department has incurred £17,478 under this contract for work undertaken to date.

(c) Ernst and Young

(i) To perform due diligence on Sale of Tote; (ii) £825,000.

(d) McKinsey

Nil

(e) Deloitte

(i) To perform an IT Security Review; (ii) £65,525.

(f) Other consultancy firms

Sports Recruitment International

(i) Recruitment of specialist sports roles for Government Olympic Executive; (ii) £51,783.

PA Consulting

(i) To provide consultancy on the DCMS Change Programme; (ii) £78,166.

Mouchel

(i) Review of new HR Oracle system; (ii) £3,795.

Mills and Reeve

(i) Legal advice on valuation for temporary use of land in King's Cross by Union Railways; (ii) £10,010.

Halliwells

(i) To provide commercial, economic and financial analysis in respect of London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; (ii) the Department has let this contract under a framework agreement. The Department has incurred £25,938 under this contract for work undertaken to date.

Saxton Bampfylde Hever

(i) Recruitment of new Chair for English Heritage; (ii) £20,700.

Food Service Associates (Henley) Ltd.

(i) Specialist consultancy on re-tender of DCMS catering contract; (ii) £1,495.

Norton Rose

(i) Legal services for advice on Digital Britain project; (ii) £65,000.

Group Partners

(i) Consultancy advice on 2012 delivery strategy; (ii) £25,000.

Departmental Costs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much staff at Senior Civil Service grades in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency claimed in reimbursable expenses in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [272810]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 May 2009]:* The reimbursable expenses claimed by senior civil service staff in the last 12 months to March 2009 were as listed:

	£
DCMS	11,123.16
The Royal Parks Agency	1,456.11

The expenses were reimbursed in accordance with the civil service management code and the Department's guidance on travel and subsistence.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Arts Council England, *(b)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(c)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(d)* English Heritage, *(e)* the Museums and Libraries Archive Council, *(f)* Sport England and *(g)* UK Sport spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273737]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Arts Council England[1]	42,603.00	119,595.00	4,358.00	10,007.00	148,923.78
Big Lottery Fund[2]	n/a	n/a	101,589.00	39,034.00	34,134.00
Heritage Lottery Fund	30,328.45	25,096.88	28,811.05	15,396.43	14,596.42
English Heritage[3]	351,000	189,000	1,030,000	834,000	795,000
UK Sport[4]	n/a	n/a	1,666.15	46,297.95	130,374.83

n/a = Not available.

[1] Arts Council England advise that their 2005-06 data reflects relocation of their South West office, and refurbishment of part of the National Office. Their 2008-09 spend reflects refurbishment of the National Office.

[2] The Big Lottery Fund was legally created from the merger of the Community Fund, New Opportunities Fund and Millennium Commission on 1 December 2006, so no data is available prior to 2006-07, which reflects initial spend on existing regional offices, as well as new Birmingham and Newcastle centres.

[3] English Heritage advise that 2004-05 spend includes replacing furniture which no longer met Health and Safety requirements, and from 2006-07 onwards includes costs incurred from a programme of relocating posts out of London (responding to Lyons and Gershon reviews), funded by the surrender of their central London lease.

[4] UK Sport has advised that data for 2004-05 and 2005-06 is not available (without accessing archived material at disproportionate cost). Their data from 2007-08 and 2008-09 reflects office refurbishment to accommodate additional staff pressure and meet OGC targets for space per person.

The Museums and Libraries Archive Council advise they have no furniture spend for the last five years.

Sport England advise that their accounting policy does not record assets purchased under £1,000, and have no furniture spend of over £1,000 recorded for the last five years.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274464]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has lost the following since 2005.

	BlackBerry lost	*Mobile phone lost*
2005	0	0
2006	1	0
2007	4	4
2008	0	2
2009	0	1

No device has been lost by a Minister, One BlackBerry was lost by a special adviser and the remaining 11 items have been lost by civil servants.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff of *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(b)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(c)* English Heritage, *(d)* Arts Council England, *(e)* UK Sport, *(f)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and *(g)* Sport England received a bonus in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [268428]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The organisations listed have provided the data included in the tables. These figures represent bonuses paid in the financial years provided, rather than the year in which the bonuses were earned.

Big Lottery Fund

Financial year	*Number of staff receiving bonuses*
2005-06	130
2006-07	142
2007-08	379

Heritage Lottery Fund

Financial year	*Number of staff receiving bonuses*
2005-06	32
2006-07	42
2007-08	43

English Heritage

Financial year	*Number of staff receiving bonuses*
2005-06	583
2006-07	730
2007-08	741

Arts Council England

Financial year	*Number of staff receiving bonuses*
2006-07	175
2007-08	195
2008-09	146

UK Sport

Financial year	*Number of staff receiving bonuses*
2005-06	68
2006-07	74
2007-08	89

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

Financial year	*Number of staff receiving bonuses*
2006-07	4
2007-08	6
2008-09	4

Sport England

Financial year	*Number of staff receiving bonuses*
2005-06	1
2006-07	1
2007-08	0

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contribution his Department has made to the cross-Government consultation, "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Children", and to the development of Government policy in this area. [274229]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS officials worked closely with the Home Office officials responsible for drafting the consultation document "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Children". DCMS officials will continue to support the development of policy in this area, in particular by participating as members of sexualisation review steering group, which will be established later this month.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided for problem gambling services in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the funding provided for problem gambling services by the gambling industry in each such year; what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of such services; if he will use his powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to ensure that the Responsibility in Gambling Trust receives additional funding to treat adequately any increase in levels of problem gambling; and if he will make a statement. [273198]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Problem gambling services in Great Britain are mainly funded by the gambling industry, principally through the Responsibility in Gambling Trust (RIGT). The Government do not fund dedicated problem gambling services, but anybody with a gambling problem who seeks help from the NHS will be offered support and, if necessary, treatment. In the past five years, the industry has contributed the following amounts to RIGT:

	Amount (£)
2008-09	3,556,783
2007-08	3,512,009
2006-07	3,032,689
2005-06	2,274,567
2004-05	2,281,527

I have accepted the recommendations set out in the Gambling Commission's final report on its review of research, education and treatment, published last October, and the industry have made good progress in meeting the minimum £5 million per annum commitments needed to fund three year research, education and treatment programmes. However, I want to make absolutely sure that the right levels of funding have been made available and there is also agreement to the improved voluntary arrangements before I make a formal statement.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will request that the Gambling Commission publish its *(a)* assessment of the regulatory risks relevant to each sector of the gambling industry and *(b)* methodology for (i) analysis of regulatory risk and (ii) prioritising its allocation of resources to gambling activities in relation to the level of regulatory risk posed by each such activity. [274293]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission has advised that details of its approach to risk have already been published. The Gambling Commission is currently consulting on revisions of its statement of principles and its licensing, compliance and enforcement policy statement. Details of the approach to risk and the consultation are available at:

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) which of the recommendations of the Hampton implementation review of the Gambling Commission he plans to accept; and what steps he plans to take to implement those recommendations; [274294]

(2) what discussions has he had with the Gambling Commission on the implementation of recommendations of the Hampton implementation review of the commission. [274295]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission has welcomed the final report and accepted its recommendations. My Department will work with the Gambling Commission on these recommendations, where appropriate, and will monitor its progress as part of the usual process of non-departmental public bodies sponsorship.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that the Gambling Commission *(a)* takes further steps to prioritise its activity according to the regulatory risks relevant to the gambling sector and *(b)* adjusts the level of fees it obtains through licensing and certification of the gambling industry to take account of regulatory risks. [274296]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission keeps the regulatory risks related to each gambling sector under regular review in order to assess and update its regulatory priorities. The Secretary of State sets licence fees in order to reflect the regulatory costs of different gambling activities to the Commission and issued a consultation on 7 April 2009, seeking views on proposed changes to the regime which reflect the Gambling Commission's latest assessment of regulatory risks and costs.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the gaming machine industry of *(a)* the proposed increase in stakes and prizes for category C and D machines and *(b)* the increase in amusement machine licence duty in the 2009 Budget. [274763]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the second public consultation on proposed increases in stake and prizes for category C and D gaming machines, an impact assessment was published on the DCMS website on 22 December 2008. The Department has not made any assessment of the effect on the gaming machine industry of the increase in amusement machine licence duty in the 2009 budget.

Sports: Equality

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sporting organisations have applied for recognition under the equality standard for sport since November 2004. [272943]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has supported 26 English national governing bodies, all 49 of the county sports partnerships and five national sport organisations including itself to achieve a level of the equality standard since 2004.

Sports: Young People

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase access to sport for young people in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* the north-west; and if he will make a statement. [272884]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 May 2009]:* The PE and School Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) has seen 90 per cent. of children and young people do at least two hours of sport a week. By 2011 it is the aim to offer five hours of PE and sport for five to 16-year-olds and three hours for those 16-19.

One of the strategy's workstrands, Sport Unlimited, aims to increase the variety of sporting opportunities for 900,000 semi sporty young people. It is delivered through the network of county sports partnerships and aims to reach 124,350 young people in the north- west, including Warrington, by 2011.

In addition Sport England has a target of getting one million people doing more sport by 2012-13, which includes those aged 16-25.

National governing bodies of sport (NGBs) are placed at the heart of Sport England's strategy as it is their networks of community clubs, coaches, officials and volunteers that will drive delivery. The NGBs will define what they need for their sport at a national, regional and sub-regional level to ensure more people play and enjoy their sport. NGBs are currently planning and taking decisions on where best to invest their money, and this includes the north-west.

In addition to investing in NGBs and other key partners, Sport England has other open funding programmes, worth a maximum of £45 million, to which a wide range of organisations from across England are able to apply. Some of this investment will address particular areas of need; for example the first of a series of themed funding rounds is targeted at rural communities.

Tourism

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to meet boards of regional development agencies to discuss his Department's joint working with Visit England. [271319]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* On 29 April 2009 I chaired the inaugural meeting of the Regional Development Agency tourism leads group and discussed regional tourism strategies and economic conditions; sub-regional engagement; skills development; sustainable tourism; and cross-regional policy and resource co-ordination, as well as the role of VisitEngland in co-ordinating and driving progress on tourism development and promotion with them.

Tourism: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will assess the *(a)* case for and *(b)* merits of a standardised national classification system for tourist accommodation providers. [274410]

Barbara Follett: VisitEngland have advised that research in the enjoy England brand tracking study 2007 showed that over three quarters of consumers (77 per cent.) believe quality schemes are important when choosing accommodation. The established visitor accommodation grading schemes (the "star rating schemes") are therefore central to improving the quality of England's tourism product.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport supported work by the cross-Britain quality review group, which included VisitBritain , the Automobile Association, and the devolved national tourist boards, VisitScotland and

VisitWales. This review group agreed to adopt uniform common inspection standards across Great Britain in May 2005.

Implementation of this work began in January 2006 and was completed in 2008. A range of tourist accommodation is assessed and marketed under the national quality accreditation schemes. Since April 2009 VisitEngland have been responsible for this work.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his Department's press notice of 19 January 2009, on the asset protection scheme, (1) what progress has been made on selecting eligible securities; and what amount of guarantees has been issued; [274281]

(2) what criteria will be used to determine what proportion of the value of the security will be guaranteed. [274282]

Ian Pearson: As announced on 26 February, the Royal Bank of Scotland Group (RBS) agreed in principle to protect £325 billion of assets in the asset protection scheme; and on 7 March Lloyds banking group (Lloyds) agreed in principle to protect £260 billion of assets in the scheme. After the deduction of the first loss (£42.2 billion and £35.2 billion respectively) that falls to the participating banks, the Treasury will guarantee 90 per cent. of the remaining value (at 31 December 2008) of the covered assets.

The Treasury and its advisers are continuing to work with participating banks to conduct due diligence on the assets intended for inclusion in the scheme.

Further detailed information will be provided after the final contracts are signed.

Business: Finance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps the Government has taken to encourage banks recapitalised from the public purse to pass on recent reductions in the Bank of England base rate when lending to small and medium-sized businesses; [275240]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to ensure that the terms and conditions placed on loans to small and medium-sized businesses by banks recapitalised from the public purse are reasonable. [275241]

Ian Pearson: Decisions concerning products and pricing remain commercial decisions for firms. Where there is public sector investment in financial institutions these stakes are being managed on an arm's length and independent basis.

The Government are taking action to ensure competitively priced loans continue to be available. On 19 January, the Government announced measures to reinforce the stability of the financial system, increase confidence and capacity to lend, and support the recovery of the economy. These measures build on those announced on 8 October 2008. The Government have agreed lending commitments with Lloyds and RBS that will see Lloyds lend an additional £14 billion, and RBS an additional £25 billion, on commercial terms and subject to market demand, over the 12 months from March 2009. The commitments are specific, quantified and legally binding. HM Treasury will report annually to Parliament on the delivery of these agreements.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1072, on council tax: valuation, when the sub-locations were last updated by the Valuation Office Agency. [274713]

Mr. Timms: Sub-location codes were last reviewed between April and December 2007, in preparation for the 2010 revaluation of non-domestic properties. Otherwise routine updates are made on a continuing basis.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274565]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply my hon. Friend gave to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott) on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1292W.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274312]

Mr. Timms: Treasury systems do not record the reasons for dismissals centrally. It is the Treasury's policy not to release data on staff where to do so could lead to the identification of individuals, including aggregated data relating to fewer than five staff members. Data for HM Treasury is not available for years prior to 2000.

HM Treasury has a policy in place to manage under-performance and, where necessary, take disciplinary action, which can lead to dismissal.

In each of the years for which data is available:

HM Treasury dismissed fewer than five staff;

The Office of Government Commerce (including Buying Solutions) dismissed fewer than five staff;

The UK Debt Management Office did not dismiss any staff.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [269545]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from

his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT strategy; and if he will make a statement; [269560]

(3) what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [269591]

(4) how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement; [269614]

(5) how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269638]

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT strategy. [273358]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury is committed to reducing emissions arising from operations and aims to deliver year-on-year reductions. Its chief information officer (CIO), in line with all other members of the CIO Council, has produced a "CIO Green ICT Roadmap" which the Treasury will be following to deliver against the 18 target improvement areas outlined in the "Greening Government ICT" strategy in July 2008.

A full report of the CIO Council Green ICT Roadmaps will be made available shortly featuring the action plans of all Departments involved in the Council against the 18 steps. A final "one year on" report will be issued by the Cabinet Office in July. The CIO/CTO Council Green ICT delivery unit will refresh its annual CIO key objectives against the latest developments in technology and advances in carbon measurement which will be circulated for comment to all CIOs and relevant Departments this summer.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274459]

Ian Pearson: For the data on lost BlackBerry devices and mobile telephones, I refer the hon. Member to some previous answers provided as follows:

17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 984W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason).

5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2580W, to the Hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir).

5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2578W, to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather).

Disaggregated information relating to Ministers, special advisers and civil servants is not available.

Prior to 2008, data for BlackBerry devices were included within the data shown as "PDAs" or "Personal Organisers", and cannot now be identified separately other than at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years; [274570]

(2) what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275337]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury is fully committed to making procurement sustainable and has a policy of using the Sustainable procurement quick wins wherever possible. However:

(a) It is not possible to identify how much the Treasury has spent on, or what proportion were, specifically recycled office supplies from other "green" products.

(b) The Treasury pays for a fully managed printer service, which includes the provision of printer ink cartridges. It is not possible to separate the amount spent on ink cartridges from the total cost of the managed service.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274222]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury systems do not record centrally all details of IT training attended by staff, as this is delegated to individual teams. The following data on the cost of centrally organised training since 2005-06 is available. 2007-08 HM Treasury revised its contracts for the external provision of IT training to ensure better value for money.

	£
2005-06	27,695
2006-07	28,153
2007-08	12,855
2008-09	8,600

In addition, HM Treasury has an in-house IT trainer who delivers induction for internal computer systems to all new starters.

Gaming

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was generated from remote gaming duty in 2008-09. [274584]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs is not currently able to publish a breakdown of remote gaming duty while maintaining taxpayer confidentiality.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Isle of Man

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has discussed with the Isle of Man Government the provision of a Treasury loan secured against the assets of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander frozen by the Government in order to enable UK depositors in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) to access their deposited funds. [269083]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October, the Treasury made Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 in order to freeze funds and financial assets relating to Landsbanki. Landsbanki is the only Icelandic bank which has been made the subject of a freezing order. Assets in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander have not been frozen by the UK Government.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man. Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man deposit compensation scheme. This matter was discussed at the Treasury Select Committee on 3 February with representatives of the Isle of Man Government.

Landsbanki: Guernsey

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made representations to the Guernsey authorities with a view to providing a loan to progress payments to depositors affected by the collapse of Landsbanki Guernsey. [271805]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in Guernsey are a matter for the Government of Guernsey.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 19 February 2009, on company directors (PO Ref: 1/67667/2009). [274436]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the hon. Member for Totnes' letters of 3 March and 21 April 2009 on Mr. Ian Bramble of Kingsbridge, regarding Mr Bramble's concerns as a financial adviser. [274691]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 420W, on hon. Members: correspondence, what the reasons are for the time taken to respond to the correspondence; and if he will make a statement. [275174]

Ian Pearson: The volume of correspondence has risen significantly over the last 12 months and it is regretted that this has resulted in replies to some correspondence being delayed. HM Treasury is taking action to help minimise the effects on service delivery times.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he proposes to publish his Department's factual paper on the operation of the Barnett formula. [274359]

Yvette Cooper: No date has yet been decided for the publication of the factual paper on the Barnett formula.

Taxation: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from *(a)* stamp duty land tax and *(b)* housing sector corporation tax in each year since 1997. [273632]

Ian Pearson: Exchequer receipts from stamp duty land tax between 2001-02 and 2007-08, the latest year for which figures are available, are given at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table05-1.xls

Figures for earlier years up to 1999-2000 are given in the publication Inland Revenue Statistics 2000, which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Receipts for 2000-01 are not available from either of these sources. Receipts from stamp duty land tax in 2000-01 amounted to £4.1 billion.

It is not possible to estimate corporation tax receipts for the housing sector.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Janet Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to rectify the system fault which has affected its on-line tax return system; for how long he expects the system to be unavailable; what estimate he has made of the number of applications for tax rebates which will take longer to process as a result of the fault; and if he will make a statement. [274802]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* In April 2009 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) identified an accounting issue which affected some customers who had submitted 2008-09 self-assessment tax returns (paper as well as online). As a consequence, from 20 April to 2 May 2009 HMRC suspended processing all Tax Returns onto their back-end systems to ensure customers did not receive incorrect calculations and statements. The issue was rectified on 1 May 2009 and

HMRC resumed processing on 2 May 2009. Any resulting repayments have been made in accordance with normal processes.

During this period customers were still able to file their online and paper tax returns. Between 20 April 2009 and 2 May 2009 the self-assessment online service was fully available apart for a period of 10 hours of planned downtime on 29 April 2009.

Valuation Office: Equality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent on diversity and equality courses for its staff at the National School of Government in the last 12 months; and how many staff have attended such courses in that period. [258397]

Mr. Timms: No Valuation Office Agency staff have attended such courses at the National School of Government in the last 12 months.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overseas Aid

6. **Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent audit he has made of the value for money being achieved by his Department's expenditure on overseas aid. [274663]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Government are committed to maximising the impact of UK aid. DFID assesses the value for money of its projects and programmes each quarter and aims to improve value for money of its projects by £66 million over the comprehensive spending review period.

DFID has a rigorous system of evaluation and makes full use of value for money audits carried out by National Audit Office.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department allocated to civilian aid to Afghanistan between 1997 and 2008; [273850]

(2) how much his Department allocated to civilian aid to Iraq between 1997 and 2008; [273851]

(3) how much his Department allocated to civilian aid to *(a)* Israel and *(b)* Palestine between 1997 and 2008. [273852]

Mr. Michael Foster: All of the Department for International Development's (DFID) development assistance has the purpose of reducing poverty in the civilian populations of the countries in which it is provided.

Details of the UK's bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) are contained in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is available in the Library of the House and online at www.dfid.gov.uk.

Afghanistan

7. **Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [274664]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government have committed £22.5 million since January 2008 to support those in Afghanistan worst affected by the high food prices and drought.

£17 million of this was channelled through emergency appeals led by the UN World Food Programme (WFP). These reach 8.7 million people, and the WFP assess that there is sufficient food to stabilise supply from the current harvest onwards.

9. **Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's spending through the UN Development Programme in Afghanistan. [274666]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UNDP is an important partner for the Department for International Development in Afghanistan, providing expertise in areas such as voter registration and support for the democratic elections. The Department's funding has helped to ensure the success of the voter registration process. It also helped to launch the Afghanistan national development strategy, which unites the Governments of Afghanistan and the UK, and other partner Governments, behind a common vision to help to build a new Afghanistan.

Gaza

8. **Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent support his Department has provided to charities and other non-governmental organisations working in Gaza. [274665]

Mr. Michael Foster: In response to the recent Gaza crisis, my Department has pledged close to £47 million to assist with humanitarian relief and early recovery. Of this, nearly £7 million has already been allocated to non-governmental organisations. A further £12.8 million has been allocated to United Nations agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

10. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the delivery of assistance for reconstruction in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [274667]

Mr. Michael Foster: In response to the recent Gaza crisis, the UK Government have committed nearly £20 million to United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and a number of non-governmental organisations to address urgent humanitarian and early recovery activities. This has included removing rubble, clearing unexploded ordnance and supporting cash for work schemes.

However, meaningful progress on reconstruction will not be possible without the opening of the crossings into Gaza to allow materials and personnel to enter. The UK Government are continuing to press the Government of Israel on this issue.

12. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [274669]

Mr. Michael Foster: The humanitarian situation in Gaza has stabilised since the ceasefire. However, the situation remains extremely concerning. Over 15,000 homes were destroyed or badly damaged during the crisis and over 30,000 homes sustained some damage. Approximately 32,000 people are without piped water, and a further 100,000 only receive water supplies every 2-3 days.

Success of the response effort will be dependent upon opening of the crossings in order to allow movement of materials and personnel into Gaza. The UK Government are continuing to press the Government of Israel on this issue.

Algeria

11. **Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to refugees from the Western Sahara in refugee camps in Algeria. [274668]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Western Saharan refugees through its 17 per cent. share of the budget of the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and its £19 million core contributions to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), for its work with refugees across the world. In 2008, ECHO committed to provide €10 million to support Western Saharan refugees, while UNHCR spent $3.1 million in their support.

Development Aid

13. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he takes into account the level of military spending by a country in assessing its eligibility for development aid from his Department. [274670]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) policy is to give funding only to those Governments who share our commitment to (i) poverty reduction and achieving the millennium development goals, (ii) human rights and other international obligations and (iii) improving public financial management and accountability. Our assessment of each Government's commitment is country-specific and covers a wide range of issues. Where relevant, the level of military spending may be one factor. In countries where we decide not to provide funding to the Government, we may provide aid through other channels such as multilateral donors or non-governmental organisations.

St. Helena Airport

14. **Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the effect on his Department's aid budget in the long term of the construction of an airport on St. Helena. [274671]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 2005 atkins feasibility study concluded that, without an airport, St. Helena will remain dependent on UK budgetary aid indefinitely. The study predicted that with the introduction of air access and development of the island's tourism industry, the need for financial support would reduce progressively with the increasing potential for St. Helena to become self sufficient in the long term.

Good Governance

15. **Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's budget for 2009-10 is planned to be spent on promoting good governance in the developing world. [274672]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Support for good governance is central to the work of the Department for International Development (DFID). Twenty two per cent. of DFID's total spend in 2007-08, including that provided through multilateral partners such as the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme, was aimed at improving governance in developing countries. This included developing the capacity and accountability of institutions, such as parliaments and bureaucracies, to function and deliver effectively, as well as supporting civil society to hold governments to account and voice its concerns. We estimate that 23 per cent. of total spend in 2008-09 was similarly aimed and we expect this trend to continue.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273722]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not possible to provide expenditure figures for furniture without incurring disproportionate cost. All furniture expenditure is incurred in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of managing public money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [273889]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not possible to provide expenditure figures for hospitality and entertainment without incurring disproportionate cost. All such costs are made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of managing public money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273785]

Mr. Michael Foster: This information is not held centrally, and would incur disproportionate costs to disaggregate from overall programme costs.

Yemen: Asylum

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid his Department is providing to Somali and Ethiopian refugees in Yemen. [273619]

Mr. Michael Foster: The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is the lead agency in Yemen for supporting Somali and Ethiopian refugees. UNHCR reports that 2008 saw a significant rise in the annual number of refugees arriving in Yemen: up by 70 per cent. to 50,091 during the year. DFID provides core funding of £19 million per year to UNHCR to assist refugees and internally displaced people. Some of that funding will have an impact on UNHCR's activities in Yemen to support Somali and Ethiopian refugees, as well as vulnerable Yemeni internally displaced persons.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* other representations his Department has received on the actions of bailiffs in the pursuit of child support arrears in the last 12 months; [271844]

(2) how much has been paid to bailiffs in fees and charges by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor for the pursuit of child support arrears in the last 12 months; [271845]

(3) how many licensed bailiffs are engaged by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for the pursuit of child support arrears. [271846]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as child support is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (a) complaints and (b) other representations his Department has received on the actions of bailiffs in the pursuit of child support arrears in the last 12 months. [271844];

How much has been paid to bailiffs in fees and charges by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor for the pursuit of child support arrears in the last 12 months. [271845]; and

How many licensed bailiffs are engaged by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for the pursuit of child support arrears. [271846]

The Commission currently has contractual arrangements with three bailiff companies. In the 12 months to the end of March 2009, bailiff action resulted in the collection of over £8.9 million in child maintenance arrears, and the Commission paid a total of £1.4 million for this service.

All bailiff firms, including those contracted to the Agency, must comply with the National Standards for Enforcement Agents, a set of common standards produced by the Government as a code of practice. The licensed bailiffs, who work specifically on Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission cases, fall under the management of the bailiff companies who will deal with any complaints made to them. Information on the number of complaints made to the Commission about the action of bailiffs in collecting child support arrears is not available.

I am sorry on this occasion I could not be more helpful.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff work in the System Information and Assurance Group in his Department. [275171]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's information security committee (a sub-committee of the Department's executive Team) is responsible for information security issues across the Department. Operational responsibility for security is assigned to respective chief executives and heads of businesses within the Department. Other senior staff in the Department's agencies have specific responsibilities for promoting data and IT system security and report to their respective chief executives. The Department does not have a system information and assurance group.

Following the publication of the Cabinet Office's review of data handling procedures in Government, specific senior civil servants across the Department have been designated as information asset owners who provide assurance to the Department's senior information risk owner that data assets are properly protected.

The Department also deploys a range of internal and external professional security resources and suppliers to both deliver and assure its IT Infrastructure and systems.

The Department does not publish details of the resources used to provide assurance over IT system security, staff or otherwise, as this could potentially threaten the security of information.

Departmental Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was for which telephone callers to his Department's helplines spent in a queue in the latest period for which information is available. [271118]

Mr. McNulty: Waiting time will vary significantly between days of the week and across the day depending on the type of benefit and query. Complex calls involving the longest handling times will usually incur the longest wait time at busiest periods.

DWP Help line	*Line type*	*Average response time minutes and seconds*
Pension Credit Application Line	0800	1.18
State Pension Application Line	0800	1.11
Benefit Enquiry Line	0800	0.24
General Enquiries	0845	0.56
Future Pensions	0845	0.47

DWP Help line	Line type	Average response time minutes and seconds
International Pensions	0845	0.37
Disability Living Allowance	0845	1.37
Carer's Allowance	Various STD	1.12
Crisis Loans	0800	9.11
Employment Support Allowance	0845	2.35
Incapacity Benefit	0845	0.55
Income Support	0845	1.15
Jobseekers Allowance	0845	2.12
Maternity Allowance	0845	1.59
Social Fund	0845	0.27
Jobseeker Direct	0845	0.57
First Contact	0800	1.53
Employer Direct	0845	0.33
NINO Allocations	0845	0.38
Crisis Loan Contingency	0800	3.09
Crisis Loan Decision	0800	8.34
National Benefit Fraud Hotline	0800	0.6
Tax Evasion Hotline	0800	0.9
Debt Management	0845	0.8

The above table shows the lines dealing with Crisis Loans as incurring the longest waiting times. Jobcentre Plus has a national recovery plan in place and is taking several measures to address this.

Housing Benefit: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many completed cases in which the defendant or defendants were accused of housing benefit fraud were brought to court in each of the last three years; how many prosecutions were successful; and what the average fine paid by a guilty party was in each such year. [274822]

Kitty Ussher: Information available for Great Britain for the last three years for which data are available is provided in the table.

	Number of prosecutions	Number of guilty verdicts
2005-06	7,717	6,234
2006-07	6,028	5,860
2007-08	6,611	6,493

Source:
Housing Operational Database located at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hobod/

The Department does not hold the information requested on fines paid by guilty parties following a prosecution for housing benefit.

Jobcentre Plus: English Language

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to offer translations of job vacancies advertised at Jobcentre Plus offices which are written in European languages other than English; and if he will make a statement. [271792]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked Mel Groves to reply direct to your question asking what steps his Department is taking to offer translations of job vacancies advertised at Jobcentre Plus offices which are written in European languages other than English. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently unavailable, I am replying in his absence.

Jobcentre Plus is a member of the European Employment Services (EURES) network, which means that we are notified of vacancies across the European Economic Area (EEA). These vacancies can be searched and viewed in Jobcentre Plus offices because of the link between the Jobcentre Plus and EURES websites. The purpose of the link is to give Jobcentre Plus customers a wider pool of vacancies to search from and to help address areas of skill shortage across the EEA.

The vacancies have been notified to the public employment services of the individual countries in the EEA and Jobcentre Plus is not responsible for their content. This is clearly stated on the vacancies in a disclaimer which reads as follows: "This vacancy has been notified by a public employment service outside Great Britain. You should carefully check the terms and conditions of employment before taking up any job offer. Jobcentre Plus is not responsible for the content of this vacancy."

Employers in other EEA countries expect applicants for their vacancies to be able to speak and understand their language. Similarly Jobcentre Plus vacancies appear in the English language when viewed in other EEA countries. As a result, there are no plans to translate these vacancies.

Jobcentre Plus: Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* salaries, *(b)* pension benefits and *(c)* bonuses have been received by each member of the Jobcentre Plus board of management in each year since 2002. [264270]

Mr. McNulty: The available information can be obtained from the Jobcentre Plus annual report and accounts for each year, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Vocational Training

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers were referred for skills training by Jobcentre Plus *(a)* in each year since 2002 and *(b)* each of the last 24 months in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district. [264266]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not collated centrally due to the extensive range of training, both in-house and delivered by external partners.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he forecasts will be claiming contribution-based jobseeker's allowance in each of the next three years. [265572]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The Government set out their assessment of prospects for the economy in the Financial Statement and Budget Report. As has been the practice of previous Governments, we do not publish an official forecast for claimant unemployment, whether in total or separately for the contributory, income-based and credits-only sections of the caseload.

For the purposes of the public finance projections the Treasury uses a planning assumption for the level of the UK claimant count in each year. This assumption is based on independent forecasts, and is audited by the independent National Audit Office. The numbers within this assumption which are assumed to be contributory cases are shown in the following table:

	Number of claimants to contributory jobseeker's allowance
2009-10	304,000
2010-11	378,000

Notes:
1. The figures quoted above relate to JSA claimants in Great Britain. They are rounded to the nearest thousand claimants.
2. These figures are the average number of claimants over the financial years shown.
3. The figures quoted in the Budget and pre-Budget reports are for seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment in the UK. This is a cautious assumption based on the average of external forecasts and is not the Treasury's economic forecast.
4. The Budget report 2009 can be found at:
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_repindex.htm
The latest assumption can be found on page 221 (box C1).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the population is claiming jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Romford constituency. [272483]

Mr. McNulty: Latest figures show that 4.0 per cent. of the UK working age population and 3.7 per cent. of the Romford working age population are claiming jobseeker's allowance.

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

2. Data is published at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

3. Data includes clerical cases.

4. The percentage of the population is calculated using the latest ONS mid-year population estimates. These are from 2007 for the UK and 2006 for Romford parliamentary constituency.

Source:

100 per cent. count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the working age population in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Northampton and *(c)* Kettering constituency is claiming jobseeker's allowance. [273804]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 May 2009]*: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in the UK, Northampton local authority and Kettering parliamentary constituency as a proportion of the working age population, March 2009

	Percentage
United Kingdom	4.0
Northampton local authority	4.9
Kettering parliamentary constituency	3.8

Notes:
1. UK and local authority population estimates are taken from the ONS 2007 mid-year population statistics.
2. Parliamentary constituency population figures are ONS experimental mid-2007 population estimates. (The methodology used to produce these parliamentary constituency estimates is subject to further review).
3. Working age is classified as females aged 16 to 59 and males aged 16 to 64.
4. Figures include clerically held cases.
5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest one decimal place.
Source:
100 per cent. count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of young people in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 10 years. [271986]

Mr. McNulty: Information for West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency is not available.

Information for Chelmsford local authority is shown in the following table.

Proportion of young people aged 18-24 in Chelmsford local authority area claiming jobseeker's allowance

As at March each year	*Percentage*
2000	2.7
2001	1.9
2002	2.1
2003	2.0
2004	2.5
2005	2.3
2006	3.0
2007	3.1
2008	2.4
2009	5.7

Notes:
1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Data are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. Figures exclude clerical cases.
4. Population estimates are taken from the ONS mid year population statistics for the relevant year except the years 2008 and 2009 which are based on the 2007 estimate.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Local Housing Allowance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure his Department incurred on the local housing allowance pilot scheme in each of the years in which it was operational. [266286]

Kitty Ussher: The local housing allowance was tested in pilot local authorities prior to national roll-out. There were nine pilot authorities in 2004-05, and 18 from 2005-06.

The total benefit expenditure (AME) on the local housing allowance pilot scheme in each of the years in which it was operational are in the table.

Total benefit expenditure on the local housing allowance pilots per year

Great Britain	*£ million*
2004-05	199
2005-06	332
2006-07	379
2007-08	422

Note:
Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.
Source:
Data obtained from audited final subsidy claims, with the exception of Norwich's 2007-08 data, which is obtained from the pre-audit claim (the audited claim has not yet been submitted).

Information on the total administration costs (DEL) of each of the pilot areas is not available. Pilot local authorities received funding based on what it was reasonably expected to cost them in administering the local housing allowance.

All pilot areas received additional funding to implement the local housing allowance, run the pilot project, contribute to the evaluation activity and procure the necessary software. Information on the level of this additional funding for each year the pilot was in operation is in the table.

Additional administrative expenditure on the local housing allowance pilots per year

Great Britain	*£ million*
2003-04	2
2004-05	3
2005-06	4
2006-07	2
2007-08	2

Notes:
1. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.
2. Figures for 2003-04 relate only to the nine Pathfinder areas while figures from 2004-05 relate to all 18 pilot areas.
Source:
DWP Payment Schedules

National Insurance: EU Nationals

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued in Peterborough to citizens of EU member states other than the UK in each month since May 2004; and if he will make a statement. [269009]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The available information regarding the number of national insurance numbers issued to adult citizens of other EU member states in Peterborough is in the following table.

Registrations for national insurance numbers to citizens of the European Union—other than the UK (Includes EU Accession States) in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency

Year of registration	*Number of registrations*
2004-05	2,350
2005-06	3,630
2006-07	3,460
2007-08	3,520

Notes:
1. Figures are displayed in thousands. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. Registration date is derived from the date at which a national insurance number is maintained on the National Insurance Recording System.
3. Improvements have been made to the allocation of migrants whose residential address is incomplete. Figures reflect the best estimate of an overseas national's locality at the time of registering for a NINO.
4. Data for 2008-09 is incomplete and shows that in the six months April to September 2008 there were 1,680 NINO registrations issued to citizens of EU member states living in Peterborough.
5. This data is published at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
6. The data we hold on national insurance number registrations for adult foreign nationals are only available annually.
Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System

Pension Credit: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Hendon constituency receive *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* guarantee credit; and what the average amount paid to such individuals under each scheme has been to date in 2009. [272302]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The answer is in the following table:

Household recipients and average weekly amounts of pension credit by type—November 2003 to August 2008 in Hendon

	Pension credit	*Average weekly amount (£)*	*Guarantee Credit only*	*Average weekly amount guarantee credit only (£)*	*Guarantee credit and savings credit*	*Average weekly amount guarantee credit and savings credit (£)*	*Savings credit only*	*Average weekly amount savings credit only (£)*
November 2003	3,430	62.38	1,990	84.42	1,250	35.30	180	9.08
November 2004	4,150	61.35	2,150	89.71	1,470	38.56	530	9.58
November 2005	4,360	64.98	2,330	93.37	1,470	40.93	560	10.51
November 2006	4,380	69.40	2,370	98.04	1,480	44.05	530	12.06
November 2007	4,350	73.13	2,420	101.51	1,430	46.15	500	13.10
August 2008	4,330	77.22	2,520	104.94	1,330	47.75	480	13.33

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. People can receive guarantee credit only, guarantee credit and savings credit, or savings credit only.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Rover Group: Pensions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will meet a delegation of ex-Rover employees to discuss the Rover pension scheme. [272361]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I met the hon. Member in March to discuss the position of a number of individuals, including members of the Rover pension schemes, who took early retirement before the relevant scheme entered the pension protection fund (PPF).

PPF compensation payable to scheme members who are under the scheme's normal pension age when the sponsoring employer becomes insolvent is subject to the compensation cap. The compensation cap affects compensation payable to active and deferred members and those who take early retirement and remain under normal pension age at the point of insolvency unless that early retirement was on the grounds of ill health.

The cap ensures consistent treatment, based on age, relative to the trigger point for entry to the PPF. It also ensures that people who are able to take early retirement before the insolvency event are not placed in a more beneficial position than people who stay in employment.

A person who takes early retirement before the PPF becomes involved with the scheme is not treated any less favourably than a person under normal pension age who did not take early retirement. Both are eligible for the 90 per cent. level of compensation and both are subject to the compensation cap. While both will have the cap actuarially reduced if they draw compensation before age 65 the person who took early retirement before the PPF became involved could have had a number of years where they were in receipt of their pension at full rate and the PPF does not recover those amounts.

After careful consideration the Government has decided not to make any changes. We realise that this decision will be a disappointment for some people. Any change could impose extra costs and we need to bear in mind not only those people who receive PPF compensation but also those people who pay the PPF levy to enable that compensation to be paid.

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the level of savings to the public purse which would result from the compulsory treatment of drug addicts and alcoholics in each of the next six financial years. [272257]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not currently available. We will pilot the new approach in a limited number of districts and evaluate carefully. This process will then inform future plans.

Social Security Benefits: Eligibility

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of payments received by individuals as the result of successful claims on *(a)* income protection insurance policies, *(b)* standalone payment protection insurance policies and *(c)* accident, sickness or unemployment policies on the entitlement of those individuals to a means-tested state benefit; and if he will make a statement. [272627]

Mr. McNulty: Monies received from income protection, standalone payment protection and accident, sickness or unemployment policies are taken into account when calculating entitlement to the working age means tested benefits. In certain circumstances payments intended to cover housing costs, credit or hire-purchase agreements may be disregarded.

State pension credit, which is for a different type of client group, allows these types of payments to be disregarded.

State Retirement Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on state retirement pensions in each year since 1997. [272568]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the table. Total state pensions expenditure figures include contributory basic state pension, non-contributory basic state pension and additional state pension.

Total expenditure on state pensions

		£ million
	Nominal terms	*2009-10 prices*
1997-98	33,586	44,069
1998-99	35,603	45,744
1999-2000	37,802	47,633
2000-01	38,745	48,188
2001-02	41,922	51,002
2002-03	44,367	52,292
2003-04	46,506	53,294
2004-05	48,802	54,444
2005-06	51,422	56,216
2006-07	53,663	57,103
2007-08	57,593	59,623
2008-09	61,632	62,249

Notes:
1. All figures to 2007-08 are out-turn, figures for 2008-09 are our latest estimates
2. Figures are consistent with the Budget 2009 report and have been rounded to the nearest £ million.
3. Basic state pension expenditure includes graduated retirement pension. Additional state pension expenditure relates to the SERPS (state earnings-related pension scheme and the state second pension and includes lump sum payments made to pensioners who have deferred claiming their state pension. The state second pension began on 6 April 2002.
4. Real terms expenditure figures have been calculated using gross domestic product deflators updated after the 2009 Budget report on 22 April 2009 and published on the HM Treasury website.
5. Figures presented are also available on the DWP website through the following link:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
Source:
DWP accounting data.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments were made to households in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [254755]

Kitty Ussher: In each of the years 2004-05 to 2007-08, no cold weather payments were made to households in West Chelmsford constituency. In 2008-09, cold weather payments were triggered three times for West Chelmsford constituency, but an estimate of the total number of payments made is not available, by constituency, only by weather station.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274553]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since April 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor has spent the following amounts on building maintenance on our four headquarter sites in London, Sheffield, Darlington and Runcorn:

	£
2004-05	2,254,511
2005-06	2,031,004
2006-07	1,788,435
2007-08	1,903,001
2008-09	1,876,348
Total	9,853,299

Education: Assessments

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if his Department will bring forward plans to create a single unified examination board. [274088]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are no plans to create a single awarding body. Ofqual recognises a number of different awarding bodies which offer GCSEs, A-levels, diplomas and other qualifications. This ensures teachers have choice and flexibility about the qualifications that are most suitable for their students.

Qualifications offered by independent organisations with, for example, links to universities are more likely to be credible and respected. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learners Bill currently before Parliament would ensure that Ofqual has the powers to ensure maintenance of standards by and between the different awarding bodies.

Education: Expenditure

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of gross domestic product the Government have spent on education in each of the last 15 years. [273794]

Jim Knight: Details of expenditure as a proportion of GDP for the financial year 2008/09 are not yet available. Figures for the financial years 1993/94 to 2007/08, as published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008 are provided in the following table.

	Percentage of GDP
1993/94	5.1
1994/95	5.0
1995/96	4.9
1996/97	4.7
1997/98	4.5
1998/99	4.4
1999/2000	4.4
2000/01	4.6
2001/02	4.9
2002/03	4.9
2003/04	5.2
2004/05	5.3
2005/06	5.4
2006/07	5.3
2007/08	5.4

Figures taken from the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008, published 21 April 2008.

GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were entered for A-level examinations *(a)* including equivalents and *(b)* excluding equivalents in each (i) local authority, (ii) constituency and (iii) area classified by decile of deprivation in the last year for which figures are available. [274588]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information will be placed in the House Libraries. Further information by local authority and income deprivation affecting children index decile is published by the Department in table 9 and 13 of the Statistical First Release 'GCEA/CE/Applied A/AS and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Revised)':

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000827/index.shtml

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils receiving free school meals gained five A* to C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in each of the last 10 years. [244286]

Jim Knight: The information available is given in the following table. Figures for those achieving five A*-C grades including English and mathematics and including equivalents are also presented.

Percentage

Proportion eligible for FSM gaining 5+ A-C GCSEs including English and mathematics*

	Excluding equivalents	*Including equivalents*
2008	21.3	23.5
2007	19.7	21.1
2006	18.4	19.5
2005	17.3	18.0
2004	15.7	16.1
2003	15.5	16.0

Notes:
1. Figures relate to pupils in maintained schools only.
2. Figures for 2003 and 2004 relate to pupils aged 15. Figures from 2005 to 2008 relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
3. Figures prior to 2003 are not available.
4. Only achievements in full GCSEs are counted in the 'excluding equivalents' column.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days of unauthorised absence were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [271983]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is not available in the form requested. The available information on the number of days of unauthorised absence in Essex local authority for the last five years is shown in the table. To provide data at constituency level would incur disproportionate cost.

Absence data are normally reported in terms of sessions. There are two sessions per day.

Primary and secondary schools[1,2] number of days of unauthorised absence 2003/04 to 2007/08—Essex local authority

	Primary[1]	*Secondary[1,2]*
2007/08	64,270	153,040
2006/07	63,790	164,500
2005/06	[3]52,720	155,880
2004/05	[3]48,330	[3]136,200
2003/04	[3]54,400	[3]127,390

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Figures have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from School Census returns.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:
Absence in School Survey and School Census (3)

School Milk

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make dairy products other than milk eligible for distribution under the school milk scheme. [274171]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

We have recently consulted on this matter and are currently considering possible options.

Schools: Bullying

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to schools on dealing with racist bullying. [273577]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Schools have a duty to promote race equality and it is compulsory for schools to have measures in place to prevent and tackle bullying, whatever the motivation. In March 2006 we published specialist guidance on bullying around race, religion and culture which focused on preventing and tackling racist bullying in schools. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the national strategies to ensure this work is embedded in schools.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's steps to tackle racist bullying in schools; and if he will make a statement. [273578]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have introduced an indicator on bullying that underpins the child safety public service agreement (PSA 13, NI69), and made it clear that we expect the proportion of children and young people who experience bullying to go down over the spending review period. We have made clear that we will monitor progress on this indicator using the annual TellUs survey. The Department has also set up a board to monitor progress against the PSA. The board will look at a range of evidence and data to ensure that we are making satisfactory progress against this indicator including evidence in respect of bullying related to race. We will seek to ensure that the level of racist bullying goes down in line with any general reduction.

We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and national strategies to help drive improvements in anti-bullying practice on the ground. Both organisations are working with local authorities and schools to ensure the Department's "Safe to Learn" guidance, including the guidance on 'Bullying Related to Race "Religion and Culture", is effectively implemented on the ground.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which external organisations his Department works to assist schools in countering racist bullying. [273579]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department works with the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the National Strategies to help schools counter racist bullying, and we have sought advice from the Runnymede Trust on our new and emerging policy initiatives. In addition, many of our other external partners, including ChildLine in Partnership with Schools and Beatbullying, have taken forward various programmes and initiatives with a specific focus on racist bullying.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the availability of professional development opportunities for teachers in relation to prevention of racist bullying. [273580]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's anti-bullying guidance recommends that schools review general and specific staff induction and continuing professional development and identify how to ensure staff training reflects the anti-bullying policy and practice of the school. Funding for teachers' professional development is included within schools' delegated budgets which enables them to take decisions about what professional development best meets their and their teachers' needs.

The national strategies work closely with behaviour and attendance consultants in local authorities to identify staff training needs. They look at whether this should include staff training in tackling racist bullying, as part of their work.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many racist incidents were recorded in schools in *(a)* Leicester City local education authority and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [273581]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are unable to provide figures for the number of racist bullying incidents in schools as this information is not collected centrally. Our bullying guidance recommends currently that schools record incidents of bullying and use the data to monitor their anti-bullying policies, and that local authorities use the data to identify trends and to evaluate area-wide initiatives. The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a general, enforceable duty on all schools (and other public bodies) to: eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; promote equality of opportunity; and promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

We intend to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record all incidents of bullying between pupils early next year, and will specifically consult on whether schools should be obliged to record racist bullying incidents and report these incidents to their local authority.

Schools: Ceramics

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will meet representatives of the British Ceramics Confederation to discuss the contribution of ceramic table and catering ware to the Healthy Schools Programme. [272365]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I shall ask my officials from the National Healthy Schools programme to arrange a meeting with members of the British Ceramics Confederation to explore this proposal in more detail.

Schools: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department provided for schools in Crosby constituency in the last five years; and what building projects relating to schools have been undertaken in Crosby constituency in each of those years. [273609]

Jim Knight: Capital funding for schools is allocated on a local authority rather than on a constituency basis. Accordingly, records are kept on a local authority basis. Funding allocated to Sefton local authority in the past five years is set out in the following table.

	£ million
2004-05	12.1
2005-06	13.3
2006-07	17.0
2007-08	12.6
2008-09	13.3

Sefton was also allocated £23.7 million in 2007-08 to rebuild one of its secondary schools, through the Building School for the Future one-school pathfinder programme.

The Department does not keep records of individual projects, as local authorities decide priorities in their commissioning role.

Schools: Information and Communications Technology

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of computers per child in primary schools in *(a)* Crosby constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England. [273613]

Jim Knight: In 2008 there was an average of 27 computers per primary school in England. This is equivalent to one computer for every 6.25 pupils. We do not have localised figures for the constituency of Crosby or for Merseyside.

Schools: Knives

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to prevent the carrying of knives by pupils in schools. [272956]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Although the illegal use of knives on school premises is not widespread, in May 2007 we introduced a power for head teachers in England to search, without consent, any pupil they suspected of carrying a weapon, the purpose being to help reduce the number of knives carried on the streets. Schools also have the powers to screen pupils at random using electronic screens or arches. Most recently, we have been encouraging schools to engage with local police in safer school partnerships in order to arrange the screening of pupils in more troubled locations.

Schools: Leyton

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been provided for schools in Leyton and Wanstead constituency in the last five years; and what building projects relating to schools have been undertaken in that constituency in each of those years. [273337]

Jim Knight: Allocations are made and records maintained on a local authority basis. Those made to Redbridge and Waltham Forest in the last five years are set out in the following table:

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ million Total*
Redbridge	16.8	20.9	17.2	17.8	15.5	88.2
Waltham Forest	10.3	10.8	7.0	7.2	18.9	54.2
Total	27.1	31.7	24.2	25.0	34.4	142.4

Waltham Forest is also benefiting from Building Schools for the Future investment. It is currently estimated that this investment will total around £250 million. In addition, Redbridge was allocated a BSF One School Pathfinder project in 2007-08, to a value of £40 million.

As it is local authorities' responsibility to plan and commission building work, the Department does not maintain records centrally of individual projects relating to schools.

Schools: Security

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) on how many occasions schools have exercised the power to screen randomly pupils using metal detectors in arches or hand-held wands since October 2006; and how many weapons have been recovered as a result of such searches; [274076]

(2) how many searches without consent have been conducted by schools of pupils suspected of carrying a weapon since May 2007; and how many weapons have been recovered as a result of such searches. [274077]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect figures on searching. Our inquiries over time suggest that few head teachers are utilising the power to search any pupil they suspect of carrying a weapon but the power is available should they decide such action is appropriate for their school. We have encouraged schools, through directors of children's services, to liaise with the police in safer school partnerships over random screening but we believe such screenings remain low in number, although figures are not collected.

Science: GCSE

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if his Department will bring forward proposals to make GCSE science courses more interesting and challenging for pupils. [274090]

Jim Knight: A new programme of study for science at Key Stage 4 was introduced into schools for first teaching from September 2006. The new curriculum maintains the breadth, depth and challenge of the previous curriculum, but has a better balance between knowledge and understanding. Pupils now learn more about the applications and implications of science (for example, global warming and genetic screening).

GCSE specifications were also revised from September 2006 to reflect the new programme of study. The Qualification and Curriculum Authority is currently reviewing the GCSE science criteria again with a view to revised specifications being taught from September 2011: these changes will ensure that the content remains up to date and engaging, and will address concerns about the level of challenge in some assessments identified in the recent Ofqual review of the 2006 specifications. Awarding bodies have also made changes to this summer's assessments in response to the Ofqual report.

Secondary Education

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained secondary schools of each type there are in England. [274287]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

Type of education	*Middle deemed secondary schools*	*Secondary schools*	*Grand total*
Community	160	1,706	1,866
Foundation	21	690	711
Voluntary aided	28	516	544
Voluntary controlled	22	81	103
Grand Total	231	2,993	3,224

Source:
EduBase2.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in areas in each decile of deprivation are *(a)* offering at least one diploma course to pupils and *(b)* part of a consortium offering at least one such course. [274377]

Jim Knight: We do not hold information on the decile of deprivation of consortia members.

Truancy: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the truancy rate for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the London borough of Havering was in the latest period for which figures are available. [272864]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is collected on authorised and unauthorised absence.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence for which reason is not yet established, and truancy. Information collected by my Department on absence is a more comprehensive measure of children's missed schooling. Our focus is on reducing all forms of absence, not just a small subset. The issue is not whether the pupil had permission to be absent; it is how much absence the pupil has.

Information on absence for Havering local authority is shown in the following table.

Primary and secondary schools[1,2] absence rate[3,4] 2007/08—Havering local authority

	2007/08	
	Primary[1]	*Secondary[1,2]*
Authorised absence rate	4.86	6.23
Unauthorised absence rate	0.47	1.07
Overall absence rate	5.33	7.30

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes pupils age five to 15 who were on roll for at least one session from the start of the school year up until 23 May 2008, excluding boarders.
[4] The total number of half day sessions lost to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence, as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 14 May 2009

SCOTLAND

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on assistance for small businesses in Scotland. [275271]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend continues to have constructive and helpful meetings on the economy and support for business with the First Minister, CBI Scotland and STUC.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Information and Communications Technology

Tim Loughton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many and what proportion of computers on the House of Commons part of parliamentary estate have been found to be infected with malware in the last 12 months. [275670]

Nick Harvey: In the past 12 months 86 per cent. of computers on the estate have been attacked by malware, 78 per cent. of which were cleaned automatically by Parliament's anti-virus software, with 8 per cent. needing a visit by an engineer. There are 4,991 computers on the estate.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answers of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 974W, on the Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry: legal costs, and 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 851-2W, on the Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry, in which financial year the legal costs paid in relation to the inquiry in each month since August 2008 were incurred. [274154]

Mr. Woodward: In relation to the lawyers working for the inquiry, I am advised that the costs paid in each month since August 2008 were paid in the same financial year as they were incurred. In relation to the lawyers representing interested parties and witnesses before the inquiry, I am advised that one payment was made in February 2009 to cover costs incurred from July 2001 to December 2004. The payment of these retrospective costs was delayed as they were the subject of lengthy negotiations on the final settlement.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274309]

Paul Goggins: In the Northern Ireland Office, one member of staff has been dismissed for under-performance and 25 members of staff in total have been dismissed from 2002 to date. The following table shows a breakdown of dismissals since 2002.

	Number of staff dismissed
2002	1
2003	0
2004	4
2005	1
2006	5
2007	8
2008	4
2009	2

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274480]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office facilitates week-long unpaid work experience placements for GCSE students, as well as year-long paid placements for university students as part of their IT degree courses. In addition, the Department offers paid summer placements to undergraduates and graduates with disabilities or from ethnic minorities under a Cabinet Office programme to increase diversity in the civil service fast stream.

The following table gives details of placements offered in the last five years.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
GCSE students	6	2	3	1	5
IT sandwich students	4	3	3	0	0
Summer placements	1	2	1	2	0

Security

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [274613]

Paul Goggins: The 21st Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission, published on 7 May, made clear that dissident activity in the period under review had been at its highest level since they started to report. The continuing high level of violent activity, often with the intention to kill members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland or other security force personnel, is an attempt to destroy the peace process.

The completion of devolution will do more than anything to undermine the dissidents.

I welcome the IMC's comments that both the UDA and UVF are beginning to address the issue of decommissioning. The Government's position is very clear. When the Secretary of State renewed the decommissioning amnesty for the final time in February, he asked the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning for a further report on progress in August. If there has not been substantial progress the decommissioning legislation will be brought to an end.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Local Government: Reorganisation

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what criteria govern the *(a)* definition and *(b)* review of local authority boundaries by the Boundary Committee for England; what guidance the Commission has issued to the Committee on (i) the conduct of its work, (ii) whom to consult in defining local authority boundaries and (iii) the account to be taken in future reviews of new housing developments built close to existing local authority boundaries. [275674]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that when conducting reviews of local authority boundaries, the Boundary Committee for England can recommend to the Secretary of State the alteration of a local government boundary; the abolition of a local government area; or the constitution of a new local government area.

The Committee must have regard to the need to secure effective and convenient local government; and the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

The Electoral Commission's role in relation to boundary reviews is limited to ensuring that the Boundary Committee has sufficient resources to carry out its programme of work. It has not provided the Boundary Committee with guidance or otherwise on the conduct of such reviews, who should be consulted or the matters that should be taken into account.

Local Government: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what data on the views of the general public were used by the Boundary Committee for England in formulating its options for consultation on the future structure of local government in Suffolk. [275178]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that in formulating its further draft proposals for public consultation, the Boundary Committee had regard to the representations made to it during its July 2008 consultations. All of these representations are available to view on the Electoral Commission's website.

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much funding from the public purse had been spent by the Boundary Committee for England on the structural review of Suffolk local government on the latest date for which figures are available; and how much such funding is available for that review for the remainder of the 2009-10 financial year. [275190]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the total costs of the Suffolk structural review to 25 March 2009 are £282,535.

For the financial year 2009-10, £269,782 has been allocated for the structural reviews of Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk. Costs for 2009-10 have not been broken down by individual review.

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what proportion of town and parish councils which expressed a view on the Boundary Committee for England's structural review of Suffolk local government expressed support for one of its preferred patterns without modification. [275221]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that an analysis by the Boundary Committee of the level of support, or otherwise, from parish and town councils for patterns of unitary local government is not yet complete. Consultation on the Committee's further draft proposals for Suffolk ends on 14 May. After that date, the Committee will consider all representations received in deciding, what, if any, advice to provide to the Secretary of State. An analysis of the representations received will be published at the end of the review.

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what ratio of residents to councillors is used in the business case for the pattern *(a)* A and *(b)* B option under consideration in the Boundary Committee for England's structural review of Suffolk local government. [275222]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the ratio of residents to councillors is not among the criteria that the Boundary Committee has used to identify its further draft proposals.

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many of the responses to the Boundary Committee for England's July 2008 consultation on the structure of local government in Suffolk expressed the view that Lowestoft should remain part of Suffolk. [275223]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that of the 1,585 respondents who expressed a view on whether Lowestoft should be included in a Norfolk based authority, 1,326 respondents specifically stated that they considered it should be retained in a Suffolk based authority.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much *(a)* her Office and *(b)* the Government Olympic Executive spent on the purchase of (i) recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and (ii) printer ink cartridges in each year since her Office was established. [274573]

Tessa Jowell: My Office has been part of the Cabinet Office since July 2007, while the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The Cabinet Office and the DCMS purchase recycled office supplies and printer ink cartridges in bulk, and it is not possible to apportion costs for my Office and for the GOE respectively.

The Cabinet Office cost and DCMS costs will be outlined in the answers provided by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport respectively.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her Office has spent on IT training for *(a)* its staff and *(b)* staff of the Government Olympic Executive in each year since her Office was established. [274237]

Tessa Jowell: My Office has been part of the Cabinet Office since July 2007, while the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The Cabinet Office and the DCMS have provided IT training for all staff who need it, but it is not possible to apportion costs for my Office and for the GOE respectively.

The Cabinet Office costs and DCMS costs will be outlined in the answers provided by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport respectively.

TREASURY

Banks: Ireland

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of deposits held by UK citizens in banks in the Republic of Ireland. [270939]

Ian Pearson: As a matter of course, HM Treasury does not comment on individual financial institutions.

Individual Savings Accounts

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of people using Individual Savings Accounts of the measures announced in the Budget 2009. [275237]

Ian Pearson: ISAs are extremely popular, with over 18 million people now holding an account. The higher ISA limits announced at Budget for people aged 50 and over from 6 October 2009 and from 6 April 2010 for all savers, will allow all adults to save more tax-free, and could directly benefit over five million individuals who make full use of either their cash or overall ISA allowance.

International Monetary Fund

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the representation of EU member states by one voice at the International Monetary Fund; and if he will make a statement. [268603]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* Representation in international fora is a matter for individual member states. EU member states are individually members of the International Monetary Fund and are not represented by the EU or by a single voice. Co-ordination procedures between EU member states on international financial issues were agreed upon at the Vienna European Council of 1998 and developed subsequently in discussions among Finance Ministers in Oviedo and Copenhagen in 2002. The Government continue to support these procedural agreements.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the effect on house prices of the stamp duty land tax holiday for properties costing up to £175,000. [275236]

Ian Pearson: As a result of the holiday over 60 per cent. of UK housing is exempt from stamp duty land tax.

No estimate has been made on the effect on house prices of the stamp duty land tax holiday for properties costing up to £175,000.

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the implications of the ruling by the VAT and Duties Tribunal in 2008 that the application of value added tax to bingo interval games breached the EU principle of fiscal neutrality for the application of VAT to bingo interval games. [274766]

Mr. Timms: No recent assessment has been made. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) disagreed with the decision of the Tribunal in the case in question and has appealed to the High Court. This appeal was heard in March this year. HMRC is awaiting the Court's decision.

TRANSPORT

Rolling Stock

7. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of levels of requirement for new rolling stock for the railways; and if he will make a statement. [275297]

12. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the level of requirement for new rolling stock for the railways; and if he will make a statement. [275303]

Paul Clark: The Government are committed to the delivery of 1,300 additional carriages on the network by 2014 to provide additional capacity in our busiest cities. The Thameslink Programme will provide up to 1,200 new carriages for services in London and the South East and the Intercity Express Programme will provide up to 1,400 new carriages for use on long distance routes across the country.

Street Works: Permit Schemes

8. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of permit schemes for street works; and if he will make a statement. [275299]

Paul Clark: The permit scheme regulations were made on 28 November and came into force 1 April 2008. The Department is currently considering applications from Kent and from Transport for London and 13 London boroughs for permit scheme powers.

Permit scheme applications are assessed against statutory criteria and the Secretary of State cannot announce approval unless applicants have demonstrated compliance with those criteria.

We have undertaken to report to Parliament on the evaluation of the first implemented permit schemes, following their first year of operation.

Stations' Champions

9. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the remit of stations' champions is; and if he will make a statement. [275300]

Paul Clark: The two station champions, Sir Peter Hall and Chris Green, have been asked to advise on ways to improve stations, considering the broader role of stations in the future and the minimum levels of service and facilities that should be offered, as well as identifying improvements that can be made in the shorter term.

London-Scotland High-speed Rail Link

10. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on proposals for a high-speed rail link between London and Scotland. [275301]

Mr. Hoon: My noble Friend the Minister of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, last met the Scottish Executive Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, and Transport Scotland officials on 24 April 2009, to discuss high speed rail.

Road Maintenance Standards

11. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role his Department has in setting standards for maintenance on local authority-maintained roads; and if he will make a statement. [275302]

Paul Clark: The maintenance of local roads in England is the responsibility of local highway authorities. It is for the local highway authority to assess which parts of the network are in need of repair, and what standards should be applied based upon their local knowledge and experience.

Speed Limits

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on proposed changes to speed limits; and if he will make a statement. [275293]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our consultation "A Safer Way" on road safety published on 21 April, aims to reduce road deaths by a third by 2020. We make a range of proposals and there are two carefully targeted to reduce speeds:

(1) That local authorities reduce limits to 20 mph on roads of a primarily residential nature and around schools; and

(2) That highway authorities reduce limits on the more dangerous rural single carriageways from 60 mph, where the evidence supports it.

We have started receiving representations and the closing date is 14 July 2009.

A38: Cornwall

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to improve road safety on the A38 between Saltash and Liskeard; and if he will make a statement. [275284]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Highways Agency has undertaken seven safety improvement schemes on this length of the A38 in the last seven years, improving highway infrastructure and increasing driver awareness of the varied characteristics of this route. A further nine schemes are presently being considered for taking forward subject to funding availability.

Aerotoxic Syndrome

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department is conducting research into a condition referred to as aerotoxic syndrome. [274679]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is conducting research into cabin air fume events which involves capturing samples of cabin air during normal conditions and fume events and analysing them to see what substances they contain and in what concentrations. The independent Committee on Toxicity (a panel including toxicologists from various universities) completed a substantial review of evidence in September 2007 and concluded that the evidence available did not establish a link between cabin air and pilot ill health, but nor did it rule one out.

Air Routes

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to restrict aircraft leased to fly UK routes to those of UK carriers; and if he will make a statement. [274280]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has no such plans.

Aviation: Redundancy

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has had recent discussions with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(b)* representatives of the British Airline Pilots Association on the development of a customised redundancy package for airline pilots; and if he will make a statement; [274228]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the operation of age discrimination legislation on airline employers' selection of pilots for redundancy; and if he will make a statement. [274299]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The pilots' trade union BALPA has written to me about the impact of the current economic situation on pilots, and I have offered to meet them.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274564]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	£
2004-05	5,116,291
2005-06	6,044,746
2006-07	5,988,013
2007-08	6,560,895
2008-09	6,951,467

Note:
Above excludes:
a. Contractual fixed costs at our main London HQ as the data is not recorded in the format requested.
b. Spend at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency as the requested data is not separately recorded

All costs relate to routine repair and/or replacement of existing facilities.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274443]

Mr. Hoon: The following contracts have been outsourced by the Department for Transport since April 2004.

Department/Executive agency	*Details of outsourced contact*	*Contract start date*
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	Estates PFI (Private Finance Initiative) providing FM (Facilities Management) Services to the DVLA Main Sites including the following services:	February 2005
	Access Control	
	Accommodation Helpdesk	
	Accommodation Planning	
	Building Maintenance Services	
	Bus Services	
	Catering, Hospitality and Vending Services	
	CCTV Systems	
	Cleaning Services	
	Estate Management	
	Fire Safety Services	
	Furniture	
	Grounds Maintenance Services	
	Management Information	
	Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance	
	Pest Control Services	
	Porter Services, Office Moves and Changes	

The method of service delivery is kept under regular review with the objective of securing best value for money.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on furniture in 2008-09; and how much each of his Department's agencies pent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273791]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information is provided in the following table:

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
					£
Central Department	301,143	—	—	—	—
Driving Standards Agency	484,340	375,000	112,000	48,000	86,000
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency[1]	1,646,713	1,809,701	1,809,701	651,315	2,918,758

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	£ 2004-05
Government Car and Despatch Agency[2]	—	—	—	—	—
Highways Agency	259,820	366,412	2,405,660	134,252	274,176
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	44,035	52,926	76,434	37,603	28,534
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	98,920	164,179	287,073	312,572	—[3]
Vehicle Certification Agency[4]	109	9,571	0	0	90

[1] DVLA expenditure on furniture in 2008-09 is distorted as a result of a major new build project and refurbishment project.
[2] Minimal expenditure incurred. Data not separately recorded.
[3] Not recorded.
[4] 2008-09 data is a draft figure not yet audited. Information on spend prior to 2005-06 not separately recorded.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 799W, on departmental manpower, whether his Department's practice of not keeping records of time spent by individual civil servants on the flexible benefits project is compatible with *(a)* Government accounting rules and *(b)* Government project management guidance. [274907]

Mr. Hoon: There is no requirement under HM Treasury's financial reporting manual to record details of the time spent by individual civil servants on individual pieces of work. The project is being run in accordance with project management methodologies.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 799W, on departmental manpower, what methodology his Department plans to use to calculate the cost of the flexible benefits project. [274908]

Mr. Hoon: The cost of the flexible benefits project is calculated by reference to the engagement of contractors, the purchase of licences, hardware and software and technology design configurations.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274470]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 18,000. The figures provided here are for lost and stolen mobile telephones and BlackBerrys for the entire Department including its Agencies and shared service centre. The figures provided do not include losses or thefts where records are not available, where equipment has not been procured centrally, or where such losses or thefts were not reported.

The number of mobile telephones and BlackBerrys used by Ministers, special advisers and civil servants lost and stolen from the Department in each year since 2005 are as follows:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mobile Telephones lost by:					
Ministers	0	0	0	0	0
Special advisers	0	0	0	0	0
Civil servants	28	28	20	15	18
BlackBerrys lost by:					
Ministers	0	0	0	0	1
Special advisers	0	0	0	0	0
Civil servants	0	2	7	14	7

Departmental Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [273890]

Mr. Hoon: Expenditure by the Department for Transport on hospitality and entertainment in the most recent three years is as follows:

	£
2006-07	648,657
2007-08	737,971
2008-09	694,991

Due to a major restructuring of accounting records, expenditure in years prior to 2006-07 cannot be provided on a comparable basis without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department adheres to the principles on the management of public money as set out in HM Treasury's handbook on Regularity and Propriety and has strict rules and cost limits on such expenditure, which in the main consists of refreshments at meetings with external stakeholders.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273772]

Mr. Hoon: Expenditure by the Department of Transport and its executive agencies on corporate branded stationery and gifts in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

These costs include a range of materials bearing the Department's or agencies' corporate branding, including letterhead, envelopes, pens and items for exhibitions or conferences.

£

Department for Transport	Financial year 2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
DfT central	59,066	17,067	13,870	13,938	19,203
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	[1]—	[1]—	96,741.64	109,980.06	124,228.70
Driving Standards Agency	4,891	32,120	31,515	57,301	133,722
Government Car and Despatch Agency	[2]—	[2]—	983	1,229	450
Highways Agency	77,792	14,407	190,833	203,040	230,532
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	107,070	95,349	210,790	157,216	86,067
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	32,432	31,214	30,443	21,419	19,384
Vehicle Certification Agency	2,758.92	7,824.05	7,130.69	10,238	8,266.57
Total	284,009.92	197,981.05	582,306.33	574,361.06	621,853.27

[1] No records available.
[2] Disproportionate cost.

The terms "stationery" and "gifts" are very broad. For the purpose of providing this answer they have been interpreted as any DfT or any agency corporate branded stationery such as letterhead, compliment slips or pens, or any piece of corporate merchandise that is corporate branded (e.g. slap wraps, pens, lanyards etc). Costs have also been limited to the production of materials and do not include storage or distribution costs.

The Department also produces a range of materials under non-corporate brands in support of its objectives, such as the THINK! road safety brand, Act on CO2 brand and Transport Direct. These have not been included as the costs for materials using these brands are not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274571]

Mr. Hoon: The information for both *(a)* and *(b)* is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275338]

Mr. Hoon: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274221]

Mr. Hoon: The IT training expenditure for the Department for Transport (central) and some of the agencies (i.e. the Driving Standards Agency (DSA), the Highways Agency (HA), the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA), the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) and part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The figures for the other agencies are as follows:

£

	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)	Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
2004-05	253,200	7,010	n/a
2005-06	321,600	2,726	n/a
2006-07	163,800	7,845	n/a
2007-08	91,800	21,057	37,714
2008-09	70,200	28,100	29,808

Driving Offences

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what sanctions will apply to motorists who drive in lanes reserved for authorised persons on the Olympic Route Network without authorisation. [272843]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The sanctions for contravention of Traffic Regulation Orders to be made in relation to the Olympic Route Network under the provisions of the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 are set out in section 15 of that Act. The Olympic Delivery Authority will aim to secure maximum compliance with the various traffic management measures in those orders through widespread publicity and communication in advance of the games.

East London Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funds were offered by his Department to Transport for London towards the costs of building the proposed Surrey Canal Road station on the East London Line extension; what progress has been made on that offer; and if he will make a statement. [274350]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A station at Surrey Canal Road is part of the Transport for London (TfL) sponsored East London Line extension project. The Department for Transport offered Transport for London and the Mayor of London an additional £7 million in the last financial year to take forward a new station at Surrey Canal Road. This offer was not accepted at the time, but I understand that Transport for London is carrying out further business case and regeneration studies associated with the scheme, working with the relevant local authorities in the areas.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from his Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273438]

Mr. Hoon: Within the Department for Transport, on-site catering services are only available at the Department's main headquarters building in London, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) sites in Swansea; the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) residential training facility in Bedfordshire and at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) HQ in Bristol.

The requested information is not recorded at our London HQ nor is it recorded at the VOSA HQ in Bristol or at the DVLA sites in Swansea. The DSA estimates that in the last 12 months it has disposed of 1,200 kg of waste food.

Holidays

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data sets his Department collects in respect of the ATOL-protected holiday scheme; and if he will make a statement. [274392]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is not involved in the management of the Air Travel Organiser's Licence (ATOL) scheme and therefore does not collect any datasets in this regard.

The ATOL scheme is managed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and protects those consumers who book an ATOL-protected holiday from losing their money or being stranded abroad as a result of travel company insolvency. I would refer the hon. Member to the CAA's website for more details:

http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=27

Landing Rights

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the airline industry on the alleviation of the 80 per cent. use it or lose it practice regarding landing slots at UK airports; and if he will make a statement. [274155]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport and a number of officials from the Department for Transport have had discussions with representatives of the airline industry regarding the European Commission's proposal to suspend the 'use it or lose it' (UIOLI) rule under the EC Airports Slot Allocation Regulation.

While we recognise the value of the UIOLI rule, we support the Commission's proposal to suspend it on a temporary basis to help airlines through the current economic downturn and prevent unnecessary flights.

Light Dues

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much total revenue was received by *(a)* Trinity House, *(b)* the Northern Lighthouse Board and *(c)* the Commissioners of Irish Lights in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what proportion of this related to ships moving between UK ports. [275664]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Light dues are collected by Trinity House on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport who administers the General Lighthouse Fund. The published annual accounts of the General Lighthouse Fund set out all other sources of income from the three General Lighthouse Authorities that is paid into the fund.

The table shows the gross light dues collected in the last three financial years within the operational areas of each of the authorities.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England and Wales (£)	61,293,332.54	58,007,105.46	60,579,057.92
Scotland and Isle of Man (£)	5,242,269.55	5,523,631.75	5,123,619.65
Northern Ireland (£)	539,408.70	568,376.25	568,838.50
Total (£)	67,075,010.79	64,099,113.46	66,271,516.07
Republic of Ireland (€)	4,613,978.64	4,764,691.47	4,122,936.68

Information on the destination or port of departure of vessels is not collected when light dues are paid so it is not possible to show what proportion of dues collected related to ships moving between UK ports.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many duplicate copies of road tax discs have been issued due to processing errors *(a)* to the hon. Member for Scarborough and Whitby and *(b)* other vehicle keepers in 2009 to date. [275495]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Two duplicate tax discs were sent to the hon. Member because of an error. The same error resulted in 62,255 other tax discs being sent to vehicle keepers in error. Since the Electronic Vehicle Licence application system went live in February 2004 it has issued over 35 million tax discs. This is the only occasion on which an error like this has occurred.

Pedestrian Crossings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of pedestrian crossing lights having an option for a longer crossing time for disabled pedestrians. [274355]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport (DfT) has made no specific assessment of the merits of pedestrian crossing lights having an option for a longer crossing time for disabled pedestrians. Local authorities are responsible for setting appropriate crossing times on their crossings, reflecting local conditions.

The relevant guidance issued by DfT, Local Transport Note 2/95—'Design of Pedestrian Crossings', states that it may be desirable to extend the green man period if there will be considerable use by disabled pedestrians.

The DfT also recommends the use of 'Puffin' (pedestrian user friendly intelligent) crossings that use detection technology to adjust the crossing period, depending on walking speed.

Railways

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger miles have been travelled on railways in Great Britain in each year since 1979. [274399]

Paul Clark: Table 1.1 of the 2008 edition of Transport Statistics Great Britain shows the following levels of passenger kilometres travelled by rail in each year since 1979:

Year[1]	*Billion passenger kilometres*[2]
1979	35
1980	35
1981	34
1982	31
1983	34
1984	35
1985	36
1986	37
1987	39
1988	41
1989	39
1990	40
1991	39
1992	38
1993	37
1994	35
1995	37
1996	39
1997	42
1998	44
1999	46
2000	47
2001	47
2002	48
2003	49
2004	50
2005	52
2006	55
2007	59

[1] Rail data are recorded in financial years.
[2] 1 kilometre = 0.6214 mile.

'Transport Statistics Great Britain 2008 Edition' is available on the Department for Transport website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/2008edition/

Railways: Electrification

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reason is for the time taken to publish the findings of the cross-industry working group assessing the case for electrification of rail lines. [274412]

Paul Clark: Network Rail is co-ordinating the work of the cross-industry electrification group and has agreed an extension in the publication timetable with the Office of Rail Regulation.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Railways: Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much capital expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* others incurred on railways in each year since 1997. [274354]

Paul Clark: Details of historic expenditure on the railways is set out in "National Rail Trends" which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies are available in the Library of the House and online at

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Railways: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the scope of his Department's powers is to alter the level of Control Period 4 funding; and if he will make a statement. [274391]

Paul Clark: The Periodic Review settlement may be revised by means of an interim review. The Office of Rail Regulation may trigger an interim review if it believes that the settlement can no longer be funded as agreed. In forming its view, the Office of Rail Regulation is required to take account of any representations from the Department for Transport.

Roads: Devon

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is able to take to expedite the approval process for the South Devon Link Road; and if he will make a statement. [275483]

Paul Clark: It is important that public funds are used as effectively as possible. Our local major scheme approval process is therefore designed to ensure that a scheme offers value for money for the taxpayer.

The Department for Transport is liaising closely with Devon county council as we continue to assess the major scheme business case for the proposed South Devon Link Road. Further information has been requested from the promoters on sections of the Business Case that required clarification. Once the value for money assessment is completed, consideration will be given to granting initial funding approval for the scheme.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the effects of the construction of the South Devon Link Road on the South Devon economy. [275523]

Paul Clark: The major scheme business case for the proposed South Devon Link Road submitted to the Department for Transport by Devon county council

and Torbay council included an economic impact study report which considered the potential economic impact of the proposed Kingskerswell bypass between Newton Abbot and Torquay in South Devon.

This report concluded that the proposed bypass could generate a range of benefits for the economic and wider development of Teignbridge, Torbay, South Hams and the surrounding areas of South Devon.

The Department is liaising closely with Devon county council as we continue to assess the major scheme business case for the proposed South Devon Link Road.

Roads: Safety

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what requirements there are upon *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* local authorities to conduct safety impact assessments prior to the installation of Trief kerbs; [273519]

(2) what guidance applies to the width of roads on which Trief kerbs are installed. [273521]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency's requirements for Road Safety Audits on trunk road schemes are set out in HD19/03 of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. This document prescribes the requirements for undertaking safety assessments for scheme inception, design development, construction, opening to traffic and monitoring. The safety implications of road restraint systems would form part of this assessment.

There is no centrally determined requirement on English local authorities to conduct safety assessments prior to the installation of Trief kerbs on the roads they manage. This is a matter for individual authorities. There is no centrally produced guidance on the width of roads on which Trief kerbs are installed.

Rushenden Link Road

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the time taken to construct the Rushenden Link Road; what recent reports he has received on progress in construction; what steps he is taking to ensure the timely completion of the project; and what recent discussions he has had with the project funders on funding commitments to the project. [275417]

Paul Clark: Kent county council are the commissioning body for the Rushenden Link Road and as such have responsibility for overseeing progress on delivery of the scheme.

The Department for Transport is not providing any funding and no discussions have been held with the project funders in relation to their funding requirements.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what budget has been agreed for the construction of the Rushenden Link Road; from what sources such funding is expected to be drawn; and if he will make a statement. [275418]

Paul Clark: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) have jointly committed a total of £12 million to the Rushenden Link Road. As the Department of Transport is not providing any funding, further details on the breakdown of funding sources would need to be sought from the funding stakeholders, HCA and SEEDA.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much each funding partner has committed to the construction of the Rushenden Link Road. [275419]

Paul Clark: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 647W.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data his Department collects on the use of cameras which measure average speed in order to monitor the performance of individual local partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [275638]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not routinely collect or require data to be submitted on the use of speed cameras, although the Department's guidance does recommend that speed and collision data are collected by partnerships. However, the Department has an interest in the effectiveness of all road safety interventions and so from time to time requests evaluation work from delivery partners. For example, as part of two wider rural demonstration projects supported financially by the Department, Norfolk and Lincolnshire county councils are proposing to install permanent average speed enforcement cameras during the next year. Because these are demonstration projects the Department will receive information about the impact of these cameras alongside the other road safety measures being implemented locally.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he has issued since July 2008 consequent on the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [273875]

Jane Kennedy: The following documents have been issued since July 2008 in relation to the Animal Welfare Act 2006:

(a) Statutory instruments made by the Secretary of State:

None.

(b) Guidance:

None.

(c) Other documents:

Consultation on the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats (November 2008);

Consultation on the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs (November 2008);

Consultation on the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Equines (November 2008);

Consultation on new Regulations and Code for Meat Chicken Welfare (January 2009); and

Consultation on proposals for Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations (April 2009).

Animals: Exports

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live *(a)* calves, *(b)* adult cattle and *(c)* lambs and sheep were exported to each country of destination for (i) slaughter and (ii) further fattening in 2008. [273094]

Jane Kennedy: Table 1 as follows gives the number of live sheep recorded as exported from the UK in 2008 as recorded in HMRC official overseas trade statistics. These are provisional figures and subject to amendments.

Please note these figures are obtained using VAT records and will exclude some EU trade for businesses which are below the VAT threshold. As a result, actual trade levels may be higher than those given, particularly for trade with mainland Europe.

Table 2 gives information on GB exports in cattle from the GB Cattle Tracing System. The Cattle Tracing System is updated on a daily basis and hence these figures can be subject to amendments.

It is not possible to identify those animals which are for slaughter or further fattening from either data source.

Table 1: UK exports in live sheep by country of destination, 2008

Short description	*Long description*	*Destination*	*Number*
Sheep live	Lambs (up to a year old)	Irish Republic	8,767
	sheep other than pure-bred breeding animals and lambs up to a year old	Irish Republic	33,607

Note:
2008 data is subject to amendments.
Source:
HM Revenue and Customs. Data prepared by Trade statistics, ESP, DEFRA.

Table 2: GB exports in live bovine by country of destination, 2008

Country of destination	*Calves (under 12 months)*	*Adult cattle (12 months and over)*	*All bovine*
Belgium	13,881	241	14,122
Denmark	4	3	7
France	11,935	54	11,989
Germany	35	85	120
Hungary	—	16	16
Italy	986	1,830	2,816
Netherlands	17,424	69	17,493
Poland	—	50	50
Republic of Ireland	285	3,065	3,350
Spain	1,924	170	2,094
Total	46,474	5,583	52,057

Note:
2008 data is subject to amendments.
Source:
GB Cattle Tracing System.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to stockpile vaccines against bluetongue serotypes *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 6; what recent assessment he has made of the level of risk for such serotypes to reach domestic livestock; and if he will make a statement. [274931]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccines for bluetongue serotypes 1 and 6 are not currently licensed for use in the UK. DEFRA is in discussion with potential vaccine providers, the veterinary profession and industry stakeholders about plans for 2009 and beyond.

Meanwhile, DEFRA continues to work with other European member states for strict control measures to contain the threat of other BTV serotypes in Europe, and will continue to conduct double post-import tests on all imported animals for all bluetongue serotypes. We also have an agreed policy for controlling incursions of any new serotypes under the existing UK-wide bluetongue control strategy.

DEFRA remains alert to the spread of these, and other serotypes, through Europe, and monitors the risk carefully. Experts at the Institute of Animal Health, Pirbright, and meteorologists at the Meteorological Office provide advice on incursion scenarios which DEFRA uses to inform and revise policy as appropriate.

Nevertheless, the UK remains at risk from bluetongue, whether from re-emergence of domestic disease, from wind-borne spread from the continent, or through animal imports. This risk is likely to remain for some time, depending on the success of control measures in other countries.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered after testing positive for bovine TB in each of the last three years; what estimate he has made of the number to be so slaughtered in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [274927]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

Bovine TB cattle[1] slaughtered in England between 2006 and 2008

	Number
2006	16,007
2007	19,827
2008	27,455

[1] Includes animals testing positive to gamma interferon testing, IRx3, Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) and Direct Contacts (DCs).
Source:
Provisional data, as downloaded from the Vetnet TBiC system on 2 March 2009. All data has been taken from TB Programme Statistical Notice December 2008.

Due to the unpredictable nature of bovine tuberculosis, it is not possible to estimate the number of cattle that are likely to be slaughtered in England throughout 2009.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many routine tests for bovine TB were undertaken in each of the last three years; how many of these tests indicated reactors; and if he will make a statement. [274928]

Jane Kennedy: The number of bovine cattle tests for England for the last three years, compared to the total number of cattle slaughtered as indicated reactors can be seen in the following table:

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Number of cattle tests[1]	4,131,821	4,326,989	4,637,294
Number of cattle slaughtered as reactors[2]	14,587	18,570	26,038

[1] Includes animals testing positive to gamma interferon testing.
[2] Includes IRx3 and gamma interferon positives.
Notes:
1. Provisional data as downloaded from Vetnet TBiC system on 2 March 2009.
2. All data has been taken from TB Programme Statistical Notice December 2008.

Cattle: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered as *(a)* reactors and *(b)* dangerous contacts in connection with the randomised badger culling trial in the last 12 months. [274375]

Jane Kennedy: The design of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) considered the number of TB breakdowns within trial areas at the herd level and not at the individual level. Data on the number of individual reactors and dangerous contacts slaughtered in connection with the RBCT can be obtained from VetNet, DEFRA's bTB control and surveillance system. However, this would be the subject of a separate data analysis exercise, which would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Common Agricultural Policy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. [274610]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA Ministers and officials have held regular discussions with the European Commission on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), in particular during the CAP Health Check and in relation to presidency agriculture agendas. We are continuing to seek far reaching reform of the CAP, working with stakeholders, the Commission and other member states.

Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons he has decided to bring forward proposals to amend the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 as it applies to private animal keepers in relation to the keeping of exotic pets; and what timetable he has set for bringing forward such proposals. [274793]

Jane Kennedy: In response to long-standing demand for reform of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976, DEFRA has substantively reviewed the Act. The most recent public consultation on proposals to amend the main body of the Act, to make it less burdensome on local authorities and keepers, was undertaken last year.

The proposals are intended to provide an improved and better focused licensing and enforcement regime in line with the "Hampton principles" of better regulation. Current public safety benefits will be retained while reducing the level of burden on keepers and local authorities, who administer and enforce the Act.

The amendments are being progressed via a Legislative Reform Order and the intention is that the changes will come into force in October 2009. New guidance for keepers and local authorities will be published to assist implementation of the Act.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association and *(b)* local authorities on his Department's proposals to amend the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976. [274794]

Jane Kennedy: All local authorities in England and Wales, together with the Local Government Association, have been fully consulted with regard to the proposed amendments to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976, most recently during the last public consultation in 2008.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274558]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Expenditure incurred by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on building maintenance is as follows:

	£
2004-05	8,261,466
2005-06	9,624,001
2006-07	9,403,900
2007-08	10,702,929
2008-09	11,362,235

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* assessment and *(b)* research has been undertaken by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) the Waste and Resources Action Programme on the accuracy of bin weighing technology in relation to the collection of household waste. [274081]

Jane Kennedy: No such assessment or research has been undertaken by DEFRA, its agencies, or the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on the accuracy of bin weighing technology.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 789W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, whether the role of the Waste Improvement Network extends to providing information to local authorities outside the South East. [274707]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste Improvement Network (WIN) is targeted at local authorities throughout England and registered users are spread across all nine regions, including the South East. Anyone is welcome to register (including non-local authority users) and there are also a number of registered users from authorities outside England.

Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the resilience procedures recommended in the Pitt Report on flooding; and if he will make a statement. [274614]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA Ministers and officials maintain regular contact with Regional Resilience teams in the Government offices on a range of issues concerning the recommendations set out in the Pitt report, in particular to maintain a dialogue on progress against the action plan that the Government have set out. This includes regular contact with Local Resilience Forums concerning multi-agency flood planning and preparedness.

Inland Waterways: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the dredging of Prescott Lock is due to be completed. [275667]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Dredging a route for freight barges entering the Olympic Park via Prescott Channel off the tidal River Lea will be completed by 31 May 2009.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of the weight of site material for the construction of the Olympic stadium, associated buildings and infrastructure which has been delivered to the site via Prescott Lock. [275668]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The new lock on Prescott Channel does not formally open until 5 June 2009. Responsibility for traffic to and from the site lies with the Olympic Delivery Authority, which has a publicly stated aspiration of moving 50 per cent. of materials by weight by sustainable means (i.e. rail and river). An award of Freight Facility Grant made to British Waterways by the Department for Transport was based upon 1.01 million tonnes of materials being delivered to the site via Prescott Lock for a minimum period of three years beginning from 31 August 2008.[1]

[1] Figures supplied by British Waterways.

Litter

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* prosecutions have been made and *(b)* fixed penalty notices issued by each local authority in England for (i) dropping of litter and (ii) dog fouling in each of the last five years. [274580]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Tables showing the data (covering those periods in which latest statistics are available) for litter and dog fouling offences have been placed in the Library of the House.

Livestock: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the veterinary profession on cost sharing for the eradication of animal diseases. [275107]

Jane Kennedy: Departmental Ministers meet regularly with representatives of the veterinary profession to discuss a wide range of animal health and welfare issues, including responsibility and cost sharing for animal health.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letters of 9 February and 1 April 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay on a constituent, Mr G Lane. [275439]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I replied to the letter of 9 February and follow up letter of 1 April from the hon. Member for Billericay on 5 May.

Milk: Imports

Albert Owen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many litres of liquid milk were imported into the UK from *(a)* Ireland, *(b)* EU member states and *(c)* other countries in the latest period for which figures are available. [274622]

Jane Kennedy: Liquid milk imports are shown in the following tables. Liquid milk is imported into the UK in two forms, as raw milk for processing by dairies in the UK, or as liquid drinking milk (e.g. pasteurised or UHT milk).

Imports of raw milk come from the Republic of Ireland for processing by dairies in Northern Ireland.

Imports of raw milk for processing into the UK—2008

	Million litres
Irish Republic	41.3

Source:
DARDNI

Liquid drinking milk is imported mainly from the Republic of Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, France and Germany. There were no recorded imports of liquid milk from Non-EU countries during 2008.

Imports of liquid drinking milk into the UK from the EU—2008

	Million litres
Irish Republic	54.4
Belgium	27.4
Netherlands	21.6
France	17.2
Germany	12.8
Other EU countries	0.6
Total UK imports from EU countries	134.1

Source:
HMRC

Pig Industry Task Force

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce the appointment of members of the Pig Industry Task Force; and what its objectives will be. [273769]

Jane Kennedy: Members of the Pig Meat Supply Chain Task Force were appointed prior to its first meeting on 18 March and announced in a DEFRA news release on 19 March. The membership is as follows:

Stewart Houston: NPA/BPEX
Barney Kay: NPA
Mick Sloyan: BPEX
Richard Lister: Industry
John Hughes: Tulip
Bill Thurston: Vion
Adrian Dowling: Bowes of Norfolk
Bernard Hoggarth: Cranswick
Simon Galkoff: Whitbreads
Nick Scrase: ASDA
Simon Twigger: Sainsburys
Colin Holmes: Tesco
Andrew Thornber: Morrisons
Jan Anderson: Yorkshire Forward
Tricia Henton: Environment Agency
Susan Knox: Consumer bodies
Ian Platt: Baxter Storey

The consumer and the supply chain will benefit from the work of the taskforce on issues such as clearer labelling, better pig herd health, greater public sector procurement of higher welfare products and environmental requirements. The principle aim is that the taskforce will significantly contribute to the long-term resilience and profitability of the supply chain.

Further information on the Pig Meat Supply Chain Task Force can be found on the DEFRA website.

Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act 1988

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have *(a)* taken in the last 12 months and *(b)* plan to take in the next two years to protect (i) horses, (ii) ponies and (iii) donkeys from the effects of cruel tethering; who his Department consulted prior to seeking the repeal of the Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [273892]

Jane Kennedy: The Protection of Cruel Tethering Act 1988 was repealed under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 as part of the Government's policy to consolidate and modernise a number of pieces of animal welfare legislation. My Department consulted all the main animal welfare and equine groups as part of the consultation we held on the Animal Welfare Bill in January 2002. An analysis of the replies to that consultation can be found on the DEFRA website.

At the end of last year, DEFRA completed a public consultation exercise on a code of practice for the welfare of equines. All the main equine animal welfare groups were consulted on the code. The draft code covers all domestic horses, ponies, donkeys, and hybrids (including mules), and includes specific guidance on tethering. Once we have considered the responses to the consultation, we will then ask Parliament to approve a revised code.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received since 2006 on the repeal of the Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [273893]

Jane Kennedy: We have received no such representations.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the provisions of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 Schedule 1, Part 2, Section 1.1 apply to products that have satisfied the end of waste criteria and are used to generate electricity; and if he will make a statement. [275109]

Jane Kennedy: The question of whether any particular waste has been fully recovered and has ceased to be waste must be determined on the facts of the case and taking into account relevant case law on the definition of waste. The Environment Agency is responsible for the implementation of waste management controls in England and Wales.

However, DEFRA has made funding available to enable the Environment Agency to develop end-of-waste protocols, which help determine the point at which certain waste streams have been fully recovered and have ceased to be waste. One such protocol has been developed for waste cooking oil, and its practical effect is that waste cooking oil treated to the standards set out in the protocol may be burned without being subject to waste management controls.

Rivers: Pollution

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidences of river pollution were reported in each of the last five years. [274956]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Incidences of reported water pollution are detailed in the following table. The incident data held on the Environment Agency's National Incident Recording System do not specify whether the pollution

was to rivers or other watercourses. The following data are therefore for all pollution incidents which had an impact on water.

Pollution incidents with an impact on water

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Category 1 (major impact)	115	100	88	68	74
Category 2 (significant impact)	595	566	520	458	359
Category 3 (minor impact)	10,916	10,222	9,488	8,878	8,184
Total	11,626	10,888	10,096	9,404	8,617

Swine Flu

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the World Organisation for Animal Health on the effect of strain H1N1 of influenza on the animal kingdom. [275108]

Jane Kennedy: We have been closely monitoring the statements of the World Organisation for Animal Health (the OIE) on the new variant Influenza A/H1N1. Contacts with the OIE are normally made though the offices of the European Commission. We have maintained close contact with the European Commission and other member states on this subject since the situation began.

To date the information available from all sources indicates that infection with the new variant Influenza A/H1N1 has occurred primarily in humans. The Canadian authorities reported on 2 May 2009 that this infection was also identified in a herd of pigs in Alberta, Canada. This single report from Canada indicates that this strain readily infects pigs and is of low pathogenicity to pigs. It is not possible to be certain that this virus will infect and affect other pigs in the same way, nor any other animal or bird species. To date there are no other reports of infection in pigs (or other animals). We understand that a joint OIE/FAO mission has taken place in Mexico where areas of further co-operation with Mexican authorities have been discussed. We would expect to see a report of this mission in due course.

Apart from this information from Canada, the possible effect of this strain of H1N1 influenza on the animal kingdom is unknown.

The OIE is collaborating with the EU, WHO, UN FAO and a network of reference laboratories and collaborating centres (including Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge) in scientific investigations on the current situation and whether this strain of H1N1 is capable of infecting other animal and bird species.

The issues of novel influenza A/H1N1 virus will also be on the agenda at the EU member states Chief Veterinary Officer's Council meeting in Brussels on 12 May, 2009.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent guidance his Department has issued to keepers of pigs on swine influenza; and what restrictions there are on the importation of *(a)* pigs and *(b)* pig meat in respect of swine influenza. [275117]

Jane Kennedy: We have not found the new variant Influenza A/H1N1 in pigs in the UK and continue to maintain our surveillance. The Food Standards Agency's advice is that the novel influenza A H1N1 virus does not pose a food safety risk to consumers. It has not been shown to be transmissible to people through eating pork and pork products.

Our advice to pig keepers is that they should stay out of contact with pigs if they have influenza signs. We also continue to advise pig keepers to ensure they have good biosecurity procedures in place, something which is important at all times. Our information to pig keepers also includes details of the surveillance programme for swine influenza which DEFRA has been funding since 1991.

European Community rules only permit imports of live swine from approved third countries and pig meat products from approved plants in those countries that have agreed animal and public health certification in place. Countries such as Mexico, which are not able to meet the certification requirements, are not permitted to export live swine and pig meat products to the European community.

All animals and meat, which can only be imported to the European Community from approved third countries, must be accompanied by veterinary certification which must confirm, among other things, that live animals have been examined by an official veterinarian within 24 hours of loading and showed no clinical signs of disease.

Meat must have been derived from animals which have been subjected to a veterinary inspection during the 24 hours prior to slaughter.

Animals and meat imported into the European Community from approved third countries must enter at designated Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) where they are subject to veterinary inspections.

Waste Management

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 826W, on waste management, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the stakeholder group. [274340]

Jane Kennedy: The minutes of each meeting of the Waste Stakeholder Group have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Waste Strategy in reducing levels of waste; and if he will make a statement. [274929]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste Strategy Annual Progress Report 2007-08 provides an assessment of the impact of the waste strategy, including on waste arisings and waste sent to landfill. It was published on 10 July 2008, and can be downloaded from the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/strategy07/index.htm

The next Annual Progress Report update on the impact of the Waste Strategy for England 2007 is due to be published later this year. This will be available via the same web link.

Water

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research his Department has conducted on the effect of projected population changes on water usage; [275665]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the likely effect of projected increases in the population on levels of consumption of water in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* each Government Office administrative region. [275691]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies have statutory duties to maintain adequate supplies of water.

In April 2007, it became a statutory requirement for water companies to prepare and maintain water resources management plans. These plans look ahead 25 years and include projections of current and future demands for water. They describe how the companies will meet this demand in order to meet their supply obligations.

These plans are regularly updated. They must take account of relevant factors, such as climate change and the most up-to-date information available on housing numbers and population forecasts for their water supply area, provided in the Government's Regional Spatial Strategies and the relevant local authority's Local Development Plan.

Water resources management plans were subject to public consultation for the first time in 2008.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers

Norman Lamb: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to publish the list of guests who have attended Chequers since the date of the last publication. [275671]

The Prime Minister: A list of guests who have received official hospitality at Chequers is published on an annual basis. Information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in the usual manner.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to reply to the letter of 26 February 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on multinational companies. [275679]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 903W, on departmental pay, what the hourly rates of pay of non-permanent members of staff working in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each such month. [275448]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274212]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the last five years DCMS has spent the following on IT training for its staff:

	£
2004-05	11,115
2005-06	15,351
2006-07	14,400
2007-08	43,549
2008-09	40,383

Gambling

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the results were of the Gambling Commission's mystery shopping exercises for 2008. [274775]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To ensure that all remote gambling operators take steps to prevent under 18s from gambling via the internet, the Gambling Commission undertakes a rolling programme of mystery shopping exercises. While their initial focus was on UK-licensed operators, the Commission has recently extended these exercises to look at a number of websites licensed overseas but accessible to UK residents, including those in EEA states and Gibraltar as well as those on the 'whitelist'. Further details of those exercises will be published as soon as practicable, and in the Commission's annual report.

Gambling: Advertising

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what differences there are in the legislative requirements relating to white list approval for advertising gambling services in the UK between online gambling companies based in *(a)* Alderney and *(b)* Antigua and Barbuda. [275426]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All applications for the white list were carefully considered against the Government's published criteria in consultation with the Gambling Commission, HM Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Though there will inevitably be differences in legislative requirements between jurisdictions, the overriding consideration for the Government are to ensure that each jurisdiction is able to meet the standards we require.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether officials of his Department visited Antigua and Barbuda prior to its inclusion on the white list. [275428]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No officials from my Department visited Antigua and Barbuda prior to their inclusion on the white list.

Mass Media

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to monitor the effects on the media industry of patterns of ownership in that industry; and what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(b)* the Office of Fair Trading on the effects of patterns of ownership on the newspaper and broadcast media industry. [275104]

Andy Burnham: We are examining the media industry as a whole, including the current ownership structures, in the lead up to the Final Digital Britain Report, which will be published in the summer. In the Interim Digital Britain Report we invited the Office of Fair Trading, with Ofcom and other interested parties, to undertake an exploratory review across the local and regional media sector and make appropriate recommendations. We expect the results of that review to be available alongside the Digital Britain Report, which is a joint project between my Department and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In addition, Ofcom are conducting a statutory review of ownership rules and should report back to me by the end of the year.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter of 29 January 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire transferred from the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 17 March, reference: 123460/SW on the future of motorsport at Croft motor-racing circuit. [276670]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I apologise for the delay in responding to the letter of 29 January 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire transferred from the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 17 March. I shall reply shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many and what proportion of child maintenance cases in North East Fife constituency payments were made *(a)* for the correct amount and *(b)* on time in each of the last five years. [270857]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as child maintenance is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in how many and what proportion of child maintenance cases in North East Fife constituency payments were made (a) for the correct amount and (b) on time in each of the last five years [270857].

The information required to answer your question on the accuracy of maintenance payments collected from non-resident parents and issued to parents with care is not available. However the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) contains the latest available information at a national level on the accuracy of maintenance assessments carried out by the Child Support Agency. The latest version of the QSS is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

It shows that in the 12 months to March 2009, 84% of current scheme assessments and 91% of old scheme calculations were accurate to the nearest penny.

The Agency aims to make maintenance payments to the parent with care within a week of receiving money from the non-resident parent. The latest information available for North East Fife constituency is set out in the attached table which shows the number and percentage of payments made to parents with care for each of the last five years and the time taken to make the payment. Over the last year, 97% of payments were made to parents with care within 7 days of the money arriving in the Agency's bank account compared to 90% in 2004/5.

Number and percentage of payments made to parents with care in the North East Fife constituency, for each of the last five years, and the time taken to make the payment

	Payments made within April to March each year:									
	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
7 days and under	1,800	90	1,800	94	1,800	90	4,400	92	5,600	97
Over 7 days	200		200		400		400		200	

Notes:

1. Only includes receipts and payments for cases held on the current computer system (CS2) and represents 70 per cent. of the Agency caseload. Management information is not available for the 30% of cases held on the old computer system (CSCS).
2. Information provided calculates time between receipt arriving in Agency's bank account and the Agency forwarding payment to the parent with care.
3. Payments allocated to parents with care in North East Fife by matching the residential postcode of the parent with care against the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff of the *(a)* Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and *(b)* Child Support Agency have been transferred to his Department in the last 12 months; and to which areas of his Department such staff have been transferred. [274415]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as child maintenance is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff of the (a) Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and (b) Child Support Agency have been transferred to his Department in the last year; and to which areas of his Department such staff have been transferred. [274415]

In January of this year and in consultation with Jobcentre Plus the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission brought forward a reorganisation of its people and estates to enable the transfer of staff and estate to Jobcentre Plus. It is currently planned around 630 people and 8 sites will be transferred to Jobcentre Plus by the end of June 2009. This transfer of people and estates contributed to the Department's plans to increase Jobcentre Plus staffing to maintain service to the increasing numbers of clients coming to Jobcentre Plus as a result of the economic downturn.

The Commission's business plan, published on 7 May 2009 anticipates reducing resources over 2009/10 to reflect the changes in legislation, and efficiencies in how we administer the current statutory maintenance scheme. This planned transfer of staff in effect brings forward the reduction in headcount and facilitates a strategically desirable reduction in the number of small 'satellite' offices the Commission needs to manage. The Commission will continue to recruit as necessary into its major sites to maintain staffing levels.

I can confirm that to date the Commission had transferred a total of 475 people and five sites to Jobcentre Plus with around 155 people and the remaining 3 sites due to be transferred by the end of June 2009. I can confirm that in the preceding months from April 2008 to November 2008 when the Commission took responsibility for the Agency, there were no compulsory transfers of people to the Department or its agencies.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [273887]

Jonathan Shaw: All expenditure on entertainment (also known within the Department as hospitality) is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The information requested is shown in the following table.

	£
2003-04	135,567
2004-05	91,259
2005-06	133,979
2006-07	196,892
2007-08	50,267

Note:
The figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.
Source:
General Ledger

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274223]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not hold records on the information requested centrally; individual business units retain records locally and as such this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Employment and Support Allowance: Lone Parents

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of transferring all lone parents whose children are under seven years from income support to employment and support allowance would be in 2009-10. [270357]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* There are approximately 460,000 lone parents on income support with a youngest child under the age of seven. Assuming that this remains constant:

the additional cost of paying all lone parents with a child under seven the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) work-related activity component (£25.50 per week) is estimated to be £610 million per annum;

the additional cost of paying all lone parents with a child under seven the ESA support component (£30.85 per week) is estimated to be £740 million per annum.

As this is not Government policy these costs assume that:

there is no assessment phase for lone parents, and the components will be paid for lone parents at the start of their claim;

the conditionality regime for lone parents on ESA would be the same as under income support for lone parents.

Notes:

1. Costs are rounded to the nearest £5 million, and reflect only the extra cost of paying the additional amount of benefit.

2. Costs depend upon caseloads. The average number of lone parents on income support over the last year was 460,000, but higher numbers would mean higher costs, and vice versa.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from his Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273437]

Jonathan Shaw: In the 2008-09 financial year, the total food waste disposed of by the Department's suppliers was 39,755 kg. This covers both waste from the preparation of food, waste from service counters and customer plate waste.

The monetary value of this is not held centrally and collating it would incur disproportionate cost.

Health Hazards: Retail Trade

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to assess the implications for optical health of the positioning at child's eye height of class 1 laser scanners in shops and supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [273369]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 already requires those responsible for shops and supermarkets to make such assessments and to ensure that any risks identified to employees and the public (including children) are properly controlled. Class 1 laser devices are in the safest class under the UK safety standard BS EN 60825-1:2007 - "Safety of Laser Products; Part 1: Equipment Classification and Requirements"

Jobcentre Plus

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many branches of Jobcentre Plus there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Midlands; and how many of these are in (i) urban, (ii) semi-rural and (iii) rural areas. [269998]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question on how many branches of Jobcentre Plus there are in (a) England and (b) the East Midlands; and how many of these are in (i) urban, (ii) semi-rural and (iii) rural areas. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are 579 Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public in England of which 53 are within the East Midlands region. We do not separately categorise Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public by urban, semi-rural or rural areas but our public facing network is designed to provide reasonable access to our services throughout England.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the annual cost to his Department of allowing jobseeker's allowance claimants to train full-time for 13 weeks at the beginning of their claim period; and if he will make a statement; [255665]

(2) if he will estimate the annual cost to his Department of allowing jobseeker's allowance claimants under 24 to train full-time for *(a)* 13 and *(b)* 26 weeks at the beginning of their claim period; and if he will make a statement. [255666]

Mr. McNulty: Even in the current economic climate, we would expect most customers to move into work relatively quickly without the need to re-train in new skills. Our policies will continue to help them to do that to avoid the costs, both to individuals and to Government, of delaying a return to work and keeping people on benefits for longer than necessary. There is therefore no current basis on which to make estimates of the costs of extending the training opportunities described to customers from the start of a claim.

Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) recipients can train for up to 16 hours per week alongside active job search.

They may also undertake up to two weeks of full-time training in any 12-month period, without jeopardising their benefit entitlements. Additionally, from 6 April anyone who has been unemployed more than six months can study full time for up to eight weeks on a job related training course approved by an employment adviser (operationally we do this by transferring the customer to a training allowance).

People from disadvantaged groups, or those for whom lack of basic skills is a barrier to employment, are eligible for training support from day one of unemployment. Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers are also able to agree early access to the job-search and training support offered by the New Deal for people whose circumstances may make it particularly hard to find work.

In addition, the Government announced last autumn that additional funding of £158 million has been made available through the European Social Fund for the Learning and Skills Council's Train to Gain programme for people who are newly unemployed or facing redundancy to undertake training linked to opportunities in the local labour market for up to two weeks full time and up to eight weeks part time.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Minister of State for Pensions plans to reply to the email of 13 March from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on the winter fuel allowance and a constituent. [274637]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 12 May 2009.

Pension Credit

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receive pension credit; and what the average weekly amount paid in pension credit to such households is. [272298]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at August 2008, there were 2,723,530 households in receipt of pension credit, with an average weekly award of £52.80.

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension credit recipients live in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency. [273208]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at August 2008, there were 55,680 households in receipt of pension credit in Essex and 4,190 households in receipt in Castle Point.

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pensioners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent changes there have been to the financial support provided by his Department to those aged over 65 years. [273662]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are spending £13 billion more on pensioners this year than if we had continued the policies of the previous Government.

Between 1997-98 and 2008-09 pensioners benefited from above-inflation increases in the basic state pension, with pensioners better off by 7 per cent. in real terms than if the basic state pension had been increased only by prices over the same period. From 6 April 2009, the basic state pension increased by 5 per cent.—this is the highest percentage increase since 2001.

From 6 April 2009 the pension credit standard minimum guarantee increased to £130 a week for single customers and £198.45 a week for couples—this above-earnings increase was the highest since pension credit was introduced in 2003.

In 2007-08, winter fuel payments were paid to over 12 million people and have helped over 8.8 million households. Winter fuel payments are worth £200 for those aged between 60 and 79 and £300 for those aged 80 and over. For winter 2008-09, the Chancellor announced an additional payment of £50 for those aged between 60 and 79 and £100 for those aged 80 and over resulting in payments per household of £250 and £400 respectively. This increase will be repeated for winter 2009-10.

The Government have also announced that the capital threshold for pension credit (and housing benefit and council tax benefit for those who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) will be increased from £6,000 to £10,000, bringing it into line with the threshold for those living permanently in care homes. This change will take effect from November 2009 and will allow these customers to retain up to £10,000 of capital before it affects their benefit. This change represents a generous increase in the capital thresholds for pension credit recipients and a significant simplification to the benefit. Half a million pensioners stand to gain from this change, with an average weekly gain across all benefits of £4.

The Government have also committed to maintain the standard interest rate applied in the support for mortgage interest scheme at 6.08 per cent. for a further six months until the end of December 2009; this will help those on pension credit who receive help with their mortgage.

The higher amounts of income tax personal allowances for those aged over 65 are substantially higher than the personal allowance for those aged under 65. For the tax year starting on 6 April 2009, the personal allowance for people aged 65 to 74 has been increased to £9,490 and the personal allowance for people aged 75 and over has been increased to £9,640. For the tax year starting on 6 April 2011, pensioners aged 75 and over will not pay tax on incomes under £10,000.

Council tax benefit makes an important contribution to the financial security of around 2.6 million pensioner households. The Government have already simplified the claims process to make income-related benefits easier to claim. Since November 2008, pensioners can claim housing benefit and council tax benefit with pension credit, entirely over the phone without having to fill in and sign a claim form.

In addition, we are writing to over 200,000 pension credit recipients in May to encourage them to contact their local council to check if they are entitled to council tax benefit or housing benefit.

Last winter the Government also increased the Christmas bonus to £70 for all those who meet the eligibility criteria with £10 being paid before Christmas and the remainder in the new year.

Pensioners: Standard of Living

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will commission research on the quality of life of pensioners in receipt of pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [274621]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently undertaking research on this issue. We have developed new survey questions about pensioners' living standards and these are currently being asked on DWP's Family Resources Survey. These questions will provide information on the quality of life of a range of pensioners, including those in receipt of pension credit. The information will be available in spring 2010.

Social Security Benefits: Eligibility

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether people remaining on incapacity benefit are to be reassessed by the eligibility criteria used for those seeking to claim the employment and support allowance; [274615]

(2) what eligibility criteria apply to those claiming employment and support allowance which do not apply to those claiming incapacity benefit. [274616]

Jonathan Shaw: Individuals who apply for employment and support allowance will be asked to undertake a work capability assessment which will be used in determining their eligibility for the benefit. This differs from those currently claiming incapacity benefits, who will have undertaken a personal capability assessment. The work capability assesment follows a similar format to the personal capability assessment, as a points based

assessment, but has been developed to provide a more accurate assessment of an individual's limited capability for work in the modern workplace.

The new assessment is more positive than its predecessor, focusing on what an individual can do as well as what they cannot. It includes a work focused health related assessment which helps individual's identify and consider ways to overcome their specific challenges to work. The mental function aspect of the assessment has also been expanded and developed to take better account of cognitive and intellectual function.

We have announced that we plan to migrate existing recipients of incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance. Recipients will have to undertake this same work capability assessment.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding has been allocated from the Strategic Programme Fund to assist *(a)* the Afghanistan counter-narcotic strategic priority and *(b)* other projects involving Afghanistan. [274942]

Bill Rammell: *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has allocated £21.9 million from the Strategic Programme Fund (SPF) in support of counter-narcotics work in Afghanistan in 2009-10. In addition to this the Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme of the SPF has allocated £5.4 million for projects in Afghanistan for 2009-10.

British Council: Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 131 of the 2009 Budget Red Book, what changes will be made to the *(a)* activities, *(b)* staffing and *(c)* priorities of the British Council to achieve the proposed £18 million of savings. [271451]

David Miliband: The British Council committed to £18.2 million of efficiency savings between 2007-08 and 2010-11 as part of its comprehensive spending review settlement. As agreed with the British Council, these savings will be realised by:

A 30 per cent. grant reduction in its European operations and reductions in its physical overseas network to reflect the move to web-based service provision;

Further rollout and exploitation of the global System Analysis and Programme Development finance and business system. This is widely used by companies to track their finances and organise their business systems including concentrating support services into regional or global support centres;

An extensive review and re-structuring of support services (human resources, information technology, finance and facilities management) organisation-wide. This will involve post reductions, process improvement and use of global centres/outsourcing; and

A reduction in capital works on its estates.

The British Council is on track to meet these efficiency savings.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273949]

Gillian Merron: No Special Advisers or Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials accompanied my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. FCO officials did accompany the Foreign Secretary to stakeholder engagement events before and after the Cabinet meeting. These events had been scheduled for an earlier date but were rearranged to coincide with the Cabinet meeting in order to reduce costs.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what car journeys he undertook in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273950]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended a number of official engagements in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. He travelled by official car throughout the day, including to the Cabinet meeting.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273951]

Gillian Merron: A cost of £234.40 was incurred by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273952]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials did not attend the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. A total of £234.40 was spent on travel for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. No expenditure was incurred on accommodation or food. While in Glasgow, the Foreign Secretary attended a number of stakeholder engagement events at which he was accompanied by FCO officials. These events had been scheduled for an earlier date but were rearranged to coincide with the Cabinet meeting in order to reduce costs.

Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1311W, on conflict prevention, how much of the increase of £152.7 million in the UK's assessed peacekeeping costs for 2009-10 is to be spent *(a)* in each country and *(b)* on each mission; and what the reasons are for the increase. [270551]

David Miliband: We have earmarked £456 million for assessed costs in 2009-10. This remains a projection as, in particular, UN peacekeeping costs are still to be negotiated by the UN General Assembly for 2009-10, and future UN peacekeeping activity remains subject to decisions by the UN Security Council. We cannot provide an accurate figure for the additional costs broken down by mission until the budgets for each of the missions are agreed and payments made.

The UN publishes budget proposals for each mission on its official document system on the UN website. These can be accessed by searching for the relevant mission at:

http://documents.un.org/welcome.asp?language=E

We expect UN Fifth Committee negotiations to be completed by early to mid June 2009.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275202]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its agencies have paid the following amounts in interest to suppliers in the last three years.

	£
2006-07	486.64
2007-08	1,882.60
2008-09	No payments

The FCO is committed to paying all of its suppliers as quickly as possible following receipt of a valid invoice.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 131 of the 2009 Budget Red Book, what *(a)* improvement in procurement and *(b)* reductions in the cost of goods and services there will be to achieve the proposed £12.5 million of efficiency during the 2007 comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [271456]

David Miliband: The improved procurement project is generating value for money savings from reductions in the costs of goods and services purchased by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) during the Comprehensive Spending Review period. The savings are achieved through better management of our expenditure by utilising the following techniques:

Collaboration with other Government Departments (OGDs) and the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Buying Solutions

Mandatory use of corporate FCO contracts to achieve better value for money

Benchmarking

Better market analysis and a more strategic approach to procurement overseas

Benefits will be realised in the main through utilising OGD and OGC contracts and re-tendering processes for major contracts and commodities which assess value for money and efficiency as part of the process. This is based on a number of factors including unit prices and balancing quality measures to ensure that service levels are maintained or improved. In addition costs savings will be realised through improvements in the on-going contract management.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274201]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Service: Allowances

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the elements of the Diplomatic Service Compensation Allowance are. [275459]

Gillian Merron: The elements are Mobility, Hardship, Representation and Spouse Compensation.

The Mobility element is paid to all Diplomatic Service (DS) staff serving overseas at Grade C4 (HEO) and above. Home Civil Service staff at grade C4 and above receive Mobility at half the Diplomatic Service rate. It compensates staff for the additional costs incurred as a result of their obligation to serve wherever in the world and whenever required (e.g. the inability to buy/sell property when conditions are favourable, the need to sell cars before normal replacement cycles and maintaining contact with family and friends).

The Hardship element is paid to all staff at difficult, hazardous or isolated Posts to compensate them for the additional costs of maintaining a UK quality of life in those conditions (e.g. additional breaks from the country, security, the need for specialist four wheel drive vehicles and importing books/DVDs).

The Representation element is paid to all staff in representational grades for the indirect costs of entertaining/networking such as depreciation in clothing, household goods and official use of private vehicle.

Spouse Compensation is paid to Diplomatic Service staff, whose spouse/registered partner has spent at least three years accompanying them overseas. It is to compensate the spouse/partner who, if they had not been following and supporting their partner overseas, would have been working and contributing towards a state and/or private pension in the UK.

Eastern Europe

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies on Eastern Europe of the outcomes of the recent Eastern Partnership summit; and if he will make a statement. [275147]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the launch summit of the Eastern Partnership in Prague on 7 May 2009 where we strongly supported this EU initiative to step up our relations with our six Eastern European neighbours—Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The Eastern Partnership will add value in a number of ways, including:

enabling the EU to deepen relations with each of the partners through New Association Agreements and deep free trade agreements when partners are ready;

setting up a framework for multilateral discussion and cooperation between member states and partners on issues including democracy, economic reform, energy and people-to-people contacts.

The UK will continue to support the development of the Eastern Partnership. We believe that a strong partnership with the region is in the interests of the UK and can help us work effectively together to strengthen democracy, reduce the risk of conflict, and create the conditions for sustainable economic growth.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions an interpretation of the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 by UK courts has been challenged at the European Court of Human Rights; and what the cost to the public purse was in each case. [274036]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not compile statistics of the kind sought. Given the requirement for applicants to exhaust their domestic remedies before taking a case to the European Court of Human Rights, many cases against the United Kingdom in that Court since the entry into force of the Human Rights Act have involved issues that have already been considered in the context of the Act. Where the application has resulted in an admissibility decision or judgment by the Court, these are available publicly on the Court's website at

http://www.echr.coe.int

India: Terrorism

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to hold discussions with the Indian Government on bilateral counter-terrorism activity. [273145]

Bill Rammell: *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited India on 13-15 January 2009. During his visit he met with his Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee. They discussed the challenge which both the UK and India face from international terrorism, and the importance of strengthening bilateral counter terrorism cooperation.

We expect to further strengthen this co-operation through the second meeting of the Indo-UK Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, due at the end of 2009. This group is the result of a Prime Ministerial agreement at the UK-India Summit held in January 2008.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency were last able to visit the Iranian nuclear sites at *(a)* Arak, *(b)* Natanz and *(c)* Bushehr; and if he will make a statement. [273730]

David Miliband: According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board Report of 19 February 2009, agency inspectors last visited the Heavy Water Research Reactor at Arak in August 2008 and the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in December 2008.

The same report says that at Natanz the agency conducted a physical inventory verification at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant on 29 September 2008 and at the Fuel Enrichment Plant on 24-26 November 2008. It also states that since March 2007 the IAEA has carried out 21 unannounced inspections at the latter plant.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 4-7WS, on General Affairs and External Relations Council, what reports he has received on *(a)* the recent contacts between High Representative Solana and Iranian representatives and *(b)* the outcome of those discussions. [273895]

David Miliband: Following the meeting of officials from the E3+3 on 8 April, High Representative Solana spoke to Saeed Jalili, Iran's Chief Nuclear Negotiator, regarding further talks with the E3+3.

In a statement on 22 April 2009, Iran announced its "readiness for talks and constructive interaction." No date has yet been fixed and we urge Iran to act in this window of opportunity to rebuild the confidence of the international community and enter into negotiations with the E3+3.

Iraq

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the mission statement for employees of his Department in Iraq is. [275454]

Bill Rammell: Employees of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) working in Iraq and in the Iraq Group in London work to the objective laid out in the FCO's middle east and North Africa Directorate's business plan:

"to support the continued development of a strong, stable, non-hostile and broadly democratic Iraq, which respects international law, denies terrorists a safe haven and contributes to stable world energy markets; and to deliver transition to a normalised, substantive bilateral relationship which advances UK commercial, consular, migration, energy and CT (Counter Terrorism) interests."

Kenya: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions representatives of *(a)* the EU and the European Union-led naval force and *(b)* international humanitarian agencies have requested access to individuals transferred to custody in Kenya in connection with alleged acts of piracy; and whether each such request was granted. [273354]

David Miliband: The German ambassador to Kenya recently visited the suspected pirates who Germany had previously transferred (on 10 March 2009 and 8 April 2009) into Kenyan custody. We are not aware of any other EU representatives or any international humanitarian agency having requested access to suspected pirates who have been transferred to Kenyan custody.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1335W, on Kenya, what undertakings the UK has made under the December 2008 Memorandum of Understanding with Kenya on the transfer of persons suspected of committing acts of piracy. [273357]

David Miliband: The Kenyan Government do not wish to make public the detail of the December 2008 Memorandum of Understanding with the UK on the transfer of persons suspected of having committed acts of piracy. We can say in broad terms that the UK has undertaken to co-operate with the Kenyan authorities in relation to the preparation and presentation of evidence to assist the Kenyan authorities to prosecute any pirates handed over to them.

Russia: BBC External Services

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on threats made against Oleg Gordievsky on the BBC Russia online forum. [273603]

Caroline Flint: We have received no representations about this matter. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has robust independent processes for dealing with complaints, and we understand that a complaint about this matter was made in 2007, and subsequently dealt with. However, this is an editorial matter for the BBC.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of Somali territory controlled by al-Shabaab and allied insurgent factions; and if he will make a statement. [273729]

David Miliband: Given the security situation in Somalia, the UK has no presence on the ground and so it is difficult to make an accurate assessment of the territorial controls of the various clans and groups in Somalia. However, we are aware that the Al-Shabaab group has footholds in several areas across Somalia, including strategic southern towns and ports. We continue to work with the Somali Government to eradicate the threat insurgents groups pose to peace and reconciliation efforts in Somalia.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to paragraph 7 of the report of the UN Secretary-General on Somalia of 16 April 2009, whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of foreign fighters to have entered Somalia in support of the al-Shabaab group. [273731]

David Miliband: We do not have the capacity on the ground to monitor the flow of people in or out of Somalia in terms of either numbers or purpose.

However, the UK is aware of the threat posed by the Al-Shabaab group to the peace and reconciliation efforts of the new Transitional Federal Government (TFG). We believe that the current inclusive approach of the TFG is the best way to isolate the more extreme individuals and prevent the Al-Shabaab group from undermining the process.

Somalia: Fisheries

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of *(a)* illegal fishing and *(b)* depositing of toxic waste by international vessels in Somali waters; and what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on these matters. [273356]

David Miliband: We are aware of reports of illegal fishing, although we have been unable to substantiate them. The current security situation in the region does not permit access to allow an assessment of these allegations or those of toxic waste dumping.

At the April meeting of EU Foreign Ministers, Somali piracy was discussed, but this did not include discussion of either illegal fishing or toxic waste dumping. Somali fishery issues were discussed during the last meeting of the EU Agricultural and Fisheries Ministers on 23 April 2009.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the International Contact Group for Piracy off the coast of Somalia has taken steps to investigate allegations of illegal fishing in Somali waters; and if he will make a statement. [273358]

David Miliband: The purpose of the International Contact Group for Piracy off the coast of Somalia is to create a co-ordinated international approach to Somali piracy. Illegal fishing has been raised as an issue during Contact Group meetings, and is recognised as a factor which needs to be taken into account when constructing a forward strategy for Somalia.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has commissioned research into the potential effects of illegal fishing in Somali waters on levels of piracy in that region. [273461]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not commissioned any research to assess the potential effects of illegal fishing in Somali waters on levels of piracy in the region. We are aware that illegal fishing is a concern to many Somalis and that this has also been highlighted as a contributory factor to why some Somalis choose to become involved in piracy. However, the causes of piracy in Somalia are complex. It should be noted that pirates are not specifically targeting fishing vessels.

The Government continue to work with the international community to tackle the root causes of piracy through the provision of humanitarian and development assistance and support for alternative livelihoods.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the feasibility of *(a)* tracking and *(b)* freezing the assets of pirates operating in Somali waters; and what the Government's policy on such steps is. [273727]

David Miliband: Due to the security and governance situation in Somalia, the Somali authorities do not have the capacity to either track or freeze the assets of pirates operating in Somali waters within Somalia.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and HM Treasury are working with international institutions and partners to analyse the possible financial measures that could be used to combat the problem. A key part of this work consists of identifying the points at which the proceeds of acts of piracy are laundered through the international financial system, and what the most appropriate steps are for tackling this. Given that Somalia lacks a well-established banking system, this is likely to require the co-operation of regional partners.

Once the new Transitional Federal Government has further established itself in Somalia, the UK and international partners will work with them to address this issue along with wider counter piracy action.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government is providing to UN efforts to build national security institutions in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [273728]

David Miliband: The international community pledged over US $53 million to the UN Trust Fund in support of Somali security institutions at the UN-organised pledging conference in Brussels on 23 April 2009. We have indicated our desire to work with the Somali authorities, the UN and the African Union Mission in Somalia to develop an accountable security sector, subject to a coherent plan being in place. We have offered to help develop such a plan, including through technical assistance to support oversight bodies.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Egyptian counterpart on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between north and south Sudan in 2005. [275319]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had recent discussions with his Egyptian counterpart on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed these issues with the Egyptian ambassador in London on 28 April 2009. There are ongoing discussions at official level on the CPA and other matters relating to Sudan.

Sudan: USA

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US President's Special Envoy for Sudan. [275323]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not yet met the new US Special Envoy for Sudan. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch Brown, has talked with the US Special Envoy by telephone, and the UK Special Representative for Sudan has had detailed discussions with General Gration on several occasions.

Syrian Arab Republic: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Syria; and what discussions the UK and Syria have had on the issue. [273726]

David Miliband: I remain concerned about the human rights situation in Syria. As detailed in the 2008 Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2008 Annual Human Rights report, the UK is particularly concerned with the deterioration in the situation for opposition politicians and Syria's Kurdish population, and the restrictions of basic civil rights and freedom of the media.

I raised these concerns with President Assad during my November 2008 visit to Syria. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Bill Rammell) raised human rights with Foreign Minister Muallem during his April 2009 visit to Syria.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Imports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 268W, what recent representations she has received on breeding of long-tailed macaques for research in Cambodia, with particular reference to the Vanny Bio-Research Centre. [274143]

Mr. Malik: We received representations from the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) on the 24 November 2008 and responded on 16 December 2008. We have received no requests from establishments licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to acquire animals from the centre or to accept it as a source of non-human primates. Should we receive such a request, we would need to be satisfied that conditions at the centre were acceptable before giving approval.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on breeding of long-tailed macaques in Indonesia for animal research in the UK; and what her Department's policy on the matter is. [274386]

Mr. Malik: We have received no formal representations relating to the breeding of long-tailed macaques in Indonesia for animal research in the UK. The acquisition of non-human primates from overseas sources for use in procedures authorised under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires prior approval which is only given if the conditions at the breeding centre are acceptable to the Home Office at the time. Any request to acquire non-human primates from Indonesia would have to satisfy these requirements.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has *(a)* approved and *(b)* inspected primate supply centres in Indonesia as overseas primate supply and breeding facilities to export primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research in the last 12 months. [274387]

Mr. Malik: No.

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on airlines of having to implement the delayed e-Borders requirements during the start of peak travel season. [260363]

Jacqui Smith: Progress on the e-Borders Programme over the last few months has been very positive with the resolution of some complex technical issues. The ramp up to 100 million passenger movements commenced in mid-March and we will confirm the achievement of the 100 million by the end of June. This important capacity increase has been managed in close collaboration with the aviation industry.

e-Borders continues to work with the industry to ensure that the burden and pressures are minimised. The roll out programme is, by agreement, country based. This permits flexibility in meeting carrier calls for relief on implementation. The transitional arrangements created by the programme to alleviate carrier implementation issues also relieve them from some critical system changes during this busy period.

Criminal Investigation: Costs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average total *(a)* direct staff cost, *(b)* operational support cost, *(c)* business support cost and *(d)* cost excluding sustaining overheads under activity-based costing analysis was for a police investigation relating to (i) a violence against the person offence, (ii) a sexual offence, (iii) robbery, (iv) deception or fraud, (v) a drugs offence, (vi) a criminal damage offence and (vii) other crimes in 2007-08. [273526]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data requested are given in the table.

Average cost per incident, by incident type

£

	Direct staff costs	*Operational support costs*	*Business support costs*	*Total cost excluding overheads*
Violence against the person—S20 and more serious	9,376.64	5,140.30	3,730.44	18,247.39
Violence against the person—S47 and less serious	216.43	151.19	93.75	461.37
Sexual offences	2,396.34	1,608.59	1,007.81	5,012.74
Robbery	1,198.15	824.08	518.36	2,540.59
Deception/fraud	508.23	302.35	229.34	1,039.92
Drugs offences	722.77	461.08	319.02	1,502.84
Criminal damage	103.65	74.91	45.12	223.68
Crimes other than those specified above	301.57	233.85	137.49	672.92
Crimes other than those specified in ABC data collection[1]	3,670.65	2,837.99	1,620.70	8,129.34
Total crime	359.00	250.25	157.32	766.57

[1] Crimes specified in ABC data collection are: violence against the person, sexual offences, burglary (dwelling), burglary (commercial and other), robbery, theft of or from a motor vehicle, theft of or from a motor vehicle, deception/fraud, theft (other), drugs offences, criminal damage.

Criminal Records: Slovakia

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements her Department has with the authorities in the Slovak Republic to obtain checks on the criminal records of Slovakian nationals *(a)* entering and *(b)* resident in the UK. [273616]

Mr. Malik: The United Kingdom is able to obtain checks, through the UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records, of previous convictions of Slovakian nationals subject to criminal proceedings in the UK using the terms of Council Decision 2005/876/JHA. If police officers in the United Kingdom are investigating a Slovakian national they can also make a request through Interpol channels for information held on the individual, including criminal record information.

There is no formal arrangement for sharing criminal records of people seeking entry to the UK. Under the Free Movement Directive 2004/38 EC nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA) can move freely within member states; they do not require leave to enter or leave to remain.

Slovakian nationals will come to the attention of UKBA officials (and may be refused entry at port) if there was an outstanding European arrest warrant for them or if they had been deported from the UK or if they had been on the UK watch list because they constitute a threat to public security.

Cybercrime: EU Action

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with her European Union counterparts on the European Convention on Cybercrime; and if she will make a statement. [274245]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to ratifying the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention. We are currently working through the formal UK process of ratification, during which we will lay the required explanatory memorandum before Parliament to obtain approval for ratification. If Parliament agrees to ratification, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will then commence the formal ratification process with the Council of Europe.

We hope to complete the parliamentary process by the summer recess and the Council of Europe process within two months of that.

We are pleased that all of the EU member states have signed the convention and that a number have completed ratification. We work closely with our EU partners to tackle cybercrime, at ministerial, official and law enforcement levels.

Departmental Sick Leave

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff in her Department and its agencies took long-term sick leave in each year since 1997; [272020]

(2) what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average number of days of sick leave taken by employees in her Department and its agencies was in each year since 1997. [272021]

Jacqui Smith: Sick absence data for 2003 though to the end of March 2007 are available from sick absence reports published on the Cabinet Office website. The reports can be found on the following Cabinet Office webpage:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/sickness.aspx

Sick absence data prior to 2002 are not available without incurring a disproportionate cost owing to several changes of HR databases in use over the last 12 years which would necessitate an investigation of individual staff records.

Table 1 provides the number of staff who took long-term sick leave in 2008-09. Data on long-term sickness are not held for 2007-08 and cannot be gathered without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Number of staff who took long-term sick absence 2008-09

	Number
Headquarters	126
UK Border Agency	244
Identity and Passport Service	169
Criminal Records Bureau	63

Table 2 provides the total number of working days lost (WDL) and the average working days lost rolling year (AWDL RY) for the period from 2007 to 2009.

Table 2

	2007-08		2008-09	
	WDL	AWDL RY	WDL (FTE)	AWDL RY
Headquarters	20,685	6.6	15,023	5.30
Identity and Passport Service	43,917	11.7	36,831	9.59
UK Border Agency	194,517	11.2	167,211	9.70
Criminal Records Bureau	5,460	12.3	5,548	11.31

Notes:
1. 2007-08 data have been taken from sickness data produced for the permanent secretary management group.
2. 2008-09 data have been answered using DataView, the single source for all Home Office HR data. DataView uses data extracted as soon as possible after the last day of the calendar month from the Home Office's four employee records systems: Adelphi for headquarters and the UK Border Agency (UKBA); Snowdrop for the Identity and Passport Service (IPS); IRIS for the Criminal Records Bureau; and ePayFact for pay and pensions purposes. UKVisas (previously FCO) and HMRC Detection staff who have transferred to UKBA will be added during 2009-10 as part of an ongoing improvement programme.

Source:
The March 2009 extract has been used to answer this parliamentary question.

Immigration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK in each of the last 15 years. [254498]

Jacqui Smith: Statistics on grants of settlement (indefinite leave to enter or remain) are provided in the table.

Data for 1994 to 2007 are from Table 5.7 published in the Home Office publication "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf

The 2008 edition is due to be published in August this year.

The provisional grants of settlement total for 2008 is from Table 12 published in the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—Fourth Quarter 2008" also available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq408.pdf

Grants of settlement—Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals, 1994-2008[1,2]—United Kingdom

Number of persons

		On removal of time limit[3]		Settlement on arrival[4]	
Year of grant	Total grants	Commonwealth citizens[5]	Foreign nationals	Commonwealth citizens[5]	Foreign nationals
1994	55,010	31,990	20,410	1,790	810
1995	55,480	33,070	20,090	1,680	640
1996	61,730	33,900	25,650	1,550	570

Grants of settlement—Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals, 1994-2008[1]—United Kingdom

Number of persons

Year of grant	Total grants	On removal of time limit[2]		Settlement on arrival[3]	
		Commonwealth citizens[4]	Foreign nationals	Commonwealth citizens[4]	Foreign nationals
1997	58,725	29,380	26,905	1,685	670
1998	69,790	38,795	28,100	1,705	1,190
1999	97,115	48,300	41,975	2,465	4,375
2000	125,945	63,000	54,750	2,875	5,315
2001	108,410	53,510	42,950	5,880	6,070
2002	115,965	58,600	46,800	4,440	4,120
2003	139,280	78,300	57,055	1,965	1,960
2004[5]	139,210	60,855	60,745	4,580	13,030
2005[6]	179,120	73,625	89,535	5,020	10,935
2006[7]	134,445	55,920	67,105	3,545	7,875
2007[8]	124,855	57,625	59,085	2,175	5,970
2008[9]	145,965	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not currently available.

[1] Excludes EEA nationals from 1999, Switzerland from 1 June 2002, A10 Accession States from 1 May 2004 and A2 Accession States from 1 January 2007.

[2] Data from 2003 exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.

[3] Indefinite leave to remain.

[4] Indefinite leave to enter.

[5] Figures for settlement of Pakistani nationals have been included in Commonwealth throughout the period covered. Zimbabwe have been included in foreign from 2004 only.

[6] Revised.

[7] Provisional.

Note:

Figures relating to 1996 and earlier have been rounded to the nearest 10. Figures from 1997 are rounded to the nearest 5 so may not sum to the totals.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 19 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Sandra Vuso. [273752]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 12 May 2009.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre work on tasks related to e-crime. [272741]

Jacqui Smith: As of 30 April 2009, and including permanent, seconded, individuals 'on loan' and temporary personnel, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) has a total of 105 staff who work to tackle the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people. Some of this work will involve abuse and exploitation where the use of technology may be a factor and other areas will focus on offender management, behavioural analysis, financial investigation and child trafficking.

Parliament Square: Access

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission research on the effects on the public of the closure of Parliament Square and surrounding roads by demonstrators on 20 April 2009; and if she will make a statement. [274028]

Mr. Coaker: The decision to close roads around Parliament Square is an operational one for the police. Clearly any demonstration has the ability to cause disruption and inconvenience to those going about their lawful business and police tactics will be to minimise such disruption while facilitating the rights of protestors to protest lawfully.

Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by her Department's programme on collaborative working between police forces to deliver protective services in regions identified as high priority; and what improvements she expects will have been made in such services in these regions by the end of 2009. [273023]

Jacqui Smith: The Protective Services and Collaboration Programme led by the Home Office and involving all the key stakeholders in policing has seen a significant increase in collaborative working over recent years.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate's recent review into protective services planning found that the majority of forces and authorities that have high need protective services now have good plans in place that, once delivered, will make the necessary improvements.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many complaints were recorded against the police in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; what the rate of complaints per 1,000 of population was in each such year; and if she will make a statement; [273865]

(2) what complaints to the Independent Police Complaints Commission have been upheld in each year since its inception; what *(a)* response was made and *(b)* steps were taken by the relevant police force to implement the recommendations; and if she will make a statement; [274008]

(3) how many complaints from *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend were (i) made to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), (ii) upheld and (iii) investigated by (A) the IPCC, (B) another police force and (C) another independent organisation since the IPCC's inception; [274015]

(4) how much has been spent on *(a)* office accommodation, *(b)* staff costs, *(c)* staff travel and subsistence and *(d)* staff bonuses at the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement; [274024]

(5) how many staff employed by the Independent Police Complaints Commission have been made redundant in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [274021]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold the information requested as these are matters primarily for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in fulfilling its statutory functions under the Police Reform Act 2002. The IPCC will respond to you direct. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what written *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance is provided by (i) her Department and (ii) the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) to members of the public wishing to make a complaint about the police; if she will place in the Library a copy of each such document; what recent representations she has received from (A) members of the public, (B) hon. Members and (C) police forces about the adequacy of the powers of the IPCC to investigate the police; and if she will make a statement. [273866]

Mr. Coaker: The IPCC publishes a wide range of information to inform the public about its work and to support them through the complaints process. This includes web based information and a number of information leaflets covering different areas of the process including making a complaint and the rights of appeal. These leaflets are produced in a variety of languages and are available in hard copy through a number of outlets including Citizens Advice Bureau offices and police stations. They are also available from the IPCC on request.

The IPCC has a team of staff who deal with calls, letters and emails from members of the public requesting information about the police complaints system and how to make a complaint.

I regularly receive a number of representations from different sources on various issues relating to the IPCC. The IPCC continues to carry out an important role. The IPCC works with its stakeholders to continue to improve the police complaints system, for example, by taking forward work on its stock-take of the system following public consultation on a number of proposals for changes to the system.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Independent Police Complaints Commission has received since 2005; how many such requests were *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each of those years; how many such appeals were successful; if she will place in the Library copies of the material subsequently provided in each case; and if she will make a statement. [273870]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2005 the Home Office has received the following Freedom of Information Act requests relating to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Freedom of Information Act requests

	Number
Total number of requests received until 1 May 2008	19
Total number of cases of where information released	2
Total number of case where information was not released	16
Total appealed to the Information Commissioner	0
Cases currently on-going	1

For those cases where information was not released, in nine cases collating the information would have exceeded the cost limit; in three cases the information was already in the public domain; and in six cases the information was not held.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has made to her Department on matters which it considers should be drawn to her attention by reason of their gravity or of other exceptional circumstances; how many were laid before Parliament; what discussions she has had with the IPCC on such matters since June 2007; if she will place in the Library copies of each such report produced by the IPCC which has not been previously laid before Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [273873]

Mr. Coaker: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has made one report to the Home Office by reason of the gravity or of other exceptional circumstances. That report ('Police Road Traffic Incidents: a study of cases involving serious and fatal injuries') was published and laid before Parliament on 18 September 2007.

Following the report, ACPO set up a working party to produce new guidance for the police on the management of police pursuits. The IPCC was involved in this work and in subsequent discussions on how to take matters forward. We are currently working with Association of Chief Police Officer and the National Policing Improvement Agency on how best to ensure general compliance with the best practice set out in the guidance.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have awarded compensation to complainants whose complaints have been upheld by the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since its creation; how much was awarded in each case; what guidance her Department has issued on the level of compensation to be awarded; and if she will make a statement. [273884]

Mr. Coaker: The information sought is not collected or held by the Home Office.

Under section 88 of the Police Act 1996, any decision to award compensation following inappropriate police conduct, including following a complaint upheld by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, is a matter for the chief officer of the force.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation currently regulates the Independent Police Complaints Commission; what amendments have been made to such legislation since its entry into force; what recent representations she has received on the operation of this legislation; which *(a)* statutory instruments, (b) departmental circulars, *(c)* consultation documents and *(d)* other documents she (i) has issued since February 2008 and (ii) plans to issue in the next two years consequent on the provisions of this legislation; and if she will make a statement. [273977]

Mr. Coaker: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) was established under the Police Reform Act 2002, with a remit covering complaints and conduct matters involving persons serving with the police service in England and Wales. The IPCC came into operation on 1 April 2004.

IPCC (Investigatory Powers) Order 2004 S.I. 2004/815 modifies, in relation to the functions of the IPCC:

Part 3 of the Police Act 1997 (authorisations to interfere with property); and

Parts 2 (intrusive surveillance) and 4 (Tribunal) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

Schedule 12 to the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 amended the Police Reform Act 2002, extending the IPCC's remit to cover death and serious injury matters, and to cover complaints against the Serious and Organised Crime Agency.

The Commissioners of Revenue and Customs Act 2005 and the Revenue and Customs (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3311) as amended by S.I. 2006/1748 made under the 2005 Act extended the IPCC's remit in relation to the commissioners and officers of HM Revenue and Customs.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 extended the IPCC's jurisdiction to cover specified enforcement functions of immigration officers.

A statutory order was laid before Parliament on 5 June 2007 for the purpose of applying the Official Secrets Act to IPCC commissioners and staff.

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 made further amendments to the Police Reform Act 2002 aimed at simplifying and modernising the police conduct system.

As part of these reforms to the police disciplinary system in which the IPCC plays a part, the following statutory instruments were laid before Parliament and came into force on 1 December 2008:

The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/2864);

The Police (Performance) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/2862);

The Police Appeals Tribunals Rules 2008 (S.I. 2008/2863);

The Police (Complaints and Misconduct) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I.2008/2866)

The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/2865);

Home Office Circular 025/2008 was issued to inform all Chief Officers of these new regulations. Guidance was also produced entitled 'Police Officer Misconduct, Unsatisfactory Performance and Attendance Management procedures' explaining the new system.

The IPCC has recently conducted a stock take of its operation and we are working with the IPCC to consider what further guidance, circulars or legislation may be required as a result.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what occasions *(a)* evidence, *(b)* findings and *(c)* recommendations from investigations from the Independent Police Complaints Commission have been included in police performance and conduct systems; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [274009]

Mr. Coaker: The IPCC's Learning the Lessons Committee, which includes representatives from the Home Office, Association of Police Authorities, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and the National Police Improvement Agency, issues regular bulletins covering lessons learnt from IPCC investigations which are fed into the police service to improve its policies and practices. The IPCC is also developing a performance framework to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the police complaints system.

A copy of the hon. Member's question has been sent to the IPCC and they will also respond to the hon. Member directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) on *(a)* its target for conclusion of a complaint against the police from the date of registration of the complaint and *(b)* the average time taken per case; what representations she has received from (i) hon. Members and (ii) members of the public about the time taken by the IPCC to investigate a complaint against a police force; what response she gave; and if she will make a statement. [274011]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is working with the IPCC, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities to help it develop a performance framework to help assess and improve the performance of the complaints system as a whole, including the work of the IPCC.

The IPCC monitors timescales of the complaints which it carries out, manages or supervises but there is no single overarching target for concluding consideration of a complaint against the police as the time will vary depending on the particular circumstances of each case.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department at each pay band have responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on the Independent Police Complaints Commission; what other posts in her Department each such official has held; and if she will make a statement. [274017]

Mr. Cooker: In line with standard non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsorship arrangements, the IPCC sponsor team is led by a member of the senior civil service (SCS) who is supported by a team of appropriate grades with suitable skills and experience.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to establish an appeal mechanism for circumstances in which the Independent Police Complaints Commission decides not to uphold a complaint made against a police force; what recent representations she has received about this issue; and if she will make a statement. [274013]

Mr. Cooker: Complainants have a right of appeal following an IPCC supervised investigation. While there is no right of appeal following an IPCC managed or independent investigation, any decisions not to uphold a complaint following a managed or independent investigation can be challenged through the courts by seeking a judicial review.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions there have been between representatives of her Department and the Chief Constable of Essex Police on the amount spent by *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend Police on (i) own force investigations, (ii) supervised investigations, (iii) managed investigations and (iv) independent investigations in each of the last three years; what representations she has received since December 2008 on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [273193]

Mr. Cooker: Any visits that are made by Home Office representatives are not recorded centrally, nor have I received any representations on this issue from Essex police since December 2008. The amount Essex police spent on investigations in each of the last three years is a matter for Essex police authority and the chief officer of Essex police.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with Essex Police Authority on *(a)* overspend and *(b)* underspend by the Authority since July 2008; and if she will make a statement. [273667]

Mr. Cooker: No Home Office Minister has held any discussions with Essex police authority on overspends and underspends since July 2008.

Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief constable of Essex and the police authority. It is a legal requirement for the police authority to set balanced budgets taking into account any use of reserves.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to refocus the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) on its extended role in *(a)* supporting forces to respond to inspections and *(b)* assisting forces to improve their performance; and what the timetable for full transition of the NPIA to this new role is. [273034]

Jacqui Smith: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is putting in place a new team that will, by June 2009, be able to provide assistance to police forces and authorities that wish to have the agency's help to improve their performance. This unit will comprise of five elements: a core team, a centre of excellence in performance management, peer teams, existing NPIA expertise and a knowledge resource.

Terrorism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with representatives of police forces on the application of section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000 to persons arranging or managing a meeting to be addressed via a video link by a person who belongs or professes to belong to an organisation listed in the Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2001; and if she will make a statement. [274020]

Mr. Cooker: There are no current plans for discussions with police forces on this subject.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of the British military is in effecting reconciliation in Afghanistan. [273713]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* As the Prime Minister reiterated in his statement of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 871, a key element of UK strategy in Afghanistan is to support the Afghan Government as they take forward the process of reconciliation.

International forces are in Afghanistan to create the security environment required for a successful Afghan-led political settlement.

Aircraft Carriers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost to the public purse *(a)* in total and *(b)* in interest incurred of the period between the originally announced completion date for the Royal Navy aircraft carriers and the most recent estimate of the completion date. [275188]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1015W.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where refits of the new aircraft carriers will be carried out. [275493]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The in-service support solution for the Queen Elizabeth aircraft carriers has yet to reach its main investment decision point, and so no decision has yet been taken on this issue.

Armed Forces: Empty Property

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* service family accommodation and *(b)* single living accommodation (i) in the UK and (ii) overseas are void properties. [275013]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The table provided shows the number of void service family accommodation properties held in the UK and Overseas as at 1 May 2009:

		Total void SFA	
Location	Total number of SFA	Number	Percentage
UK	49,884	8,390	17
Overseas and Europe	15,430	3,062	20

It is not possible to provide the number of void single living accommodation properties as the information is currently being verified.

Service accommodation is held void for various reasons such as it is awaiting moves of service personnel, improvement or modernisation, demolition or disposal. The Department is making vigorous efforts to reduce the percentage of voids, but there will always need to be a management margin to allow properties to be available for eligible service personnel when required.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the defects at the service family accommodation at Jubilee Buildings, Queens Terrace, St. John's Wood; what his Department's remedial plan for this accommodation is; and what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* budget is for its repair. [274748]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As might be expected after decades of underinvestment there are many issues arising from these properties and the accommodation is not of the high standard to which we aspire.

Although essential maintenance and repairs continue to be carried out and issues raised by occupants are addressed, these properties are not required beyond 2011 and accordingly no major modernisation or improvement works are planned.

I have also asked for an update on these buildings and will write following this.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons permission for hon. Members to visit service family accommodation at Jubilee Buildings, Queen's Terrace, St. John's Wood has been refused. [274749]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I wrote to the hon. Member on 25 April 2009 stating that there were some issues with the accommodation and that I would write to him again shortly with details of these and our steps to resolve them.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints Modern Housing Solutions received about accommodation maintenance in each of the last 12 months. [274982]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of complaints received by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) in each of the last 12 months is provided in the following table.

	Total number of complaints received	Number of complaints regarding maintenance[1]
May 2008	622	397
June 2008	626	379
July 2008	656	458
August 2008	625	398
September 2008	727	479
October 2008	618	509
November 2008	674	407
December 2008	684	390
January 2009	909	534
February 2009	788	465
March 2009	937	497
April 2009	1,049	532

[1] Total complaints less those about missed appointments.

The figures have been broken down to separate cases where MHS have paid compensation to service family accommodation (SFA) occupants for missed appointments.

MHS are responsible for the maintenance and repair of approximately 45,000 SFA properties in England and Wales and carry out over 200,000 response repair jobs each year.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of units of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation at each location in England there are at each grade. [274983]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The table provided as follows shows, as of December 2008, the number and percentage of single living accommodation (SLA) broken down by grade. Grade is an assessment of the size, amenities and condition of the SLA.

	Grade 1		Grade 2		Grade 3		Grade 4		
Region	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Grand total
East Midlands	1,488	25	809	14	265	4	3,464	57	6,026
East of England	3,989	32	2,680	22	2,337	19	3,289	27	12,295
London	129	3	1,147	29	654	16	2,066	52	3,996
North East	417	16	199	6	1,423	55	611	23	2,610
North West	101	8	417	32	737	56	57	4	1,312
South East	7,221	19	4,813	12	4,239	11	22,382	58	38,655

Region	Grade 1 Number	Grade 1 Percentage	Grade 2 Number	Grade 2 Percentage	Grade 3 Number	Grade 3 Percentage	Grade 4 Number	Grade 4 Percentage	Grand total
South West	8,764	30	3,164	11	4,230	14	13,449	45	29,607
West Midlands	1,236	19	1,129	18	1,907	29	2,216	34	6,488
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,589	31	742	7	2,240	19	5,040	43	11,611
Wales	427	15	489	17	76	3	1,805	65	2,797
Scotland	2,443	33	1,527	21	2,096	28	1,335	18	7,401
Northern Ireland	1,445	36	971	24	900	22	717	18	4,033
Grand total	31,249	25	18,047	14	21,104	17	56,431	44	126,831

Further details on this breakdown are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of service family accommodation as the information is not held in the form requested and will take more time to collate and verify. I will therefore write to the hon. Member with the requested information.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reported break-ins to service personnel accommodation there have been in each year since 2005. [275009]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of reported break-ins to service personnel accommodation reported in each year since 2005 is provided in the following table.

	Incidents
2005	1,143
2006	1,074
2007	1,017
2008	923
2009 (as at 11 May)	228

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were enrolled in a *(a)* gap year commission and *(b)* short service engagement in each year since 2000. [274897]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The short service commission is the normal first commission for those who become an officer in the armed forces and requires a minimum engagement of three years. Certain corps and regiments may have longer minimum engagements. It is a commission for those who do not wish to commit to a long career but would like to benefit from the high quality training and exceptional opportunities available to young officers. The gap year commission is open to people who have a firm place at a UK university for a first degree. It involves a year's commission in the Army, at the end of which, personnel can decide either to join the Army or go to university.

The following tables show an intake by financial year of gap year commissions and short service commissions for each of the Services:

Intake to the Regular Naval Service

Financial year	Gap year commission	Short service commission
2000-01	—	50
2001-02	—	60
2002-03	—	10

Intake to the Regular Army

Financial year	Gap year commission[1]	Short service commission
2000-01	60	160
2001-02	70	160
2002-03	80	140
2003-04	70	120
2004-05	30	120
2005-06	40	50
2006-07	50	40

[1] Gap year commissions are only utilised by the Army.

Intake to the Regular Air Force

Financial year	Gap year commission	Short service commission
2000-01	—	160
2001-02	—	150
2002-03	—	140
2003-04	—	130
2004-05	—	80
2005-06	—	80

As shown in the tables, no information is available for more recent years as it is not held in a format that is easily extractible. As such, information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* recruitment target and *(b)* recruitment level achieved for each pinch point trade for the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force was in each year since 2001. [275047]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 565W. The position remains the same and there is nothing further I can add.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the Battlemind programme; and what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing it for the UK armed forces. [275186]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is extensive liaison at official level between UK and US colleagues on the Battlemind programme. Battlemind is a military skills training programme, developed in the US by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, to prepare service personnel for the demands and challenges of operational deployment, and to enable them to adjust successfully to the peacetime environment when they return home. A version of the programme, modified for the UK, is currently being trialled by the Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health, King's College London (ACDMH). The results of this trial are due early 2010.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing psychometric testing for the armed forces in order *(a)* to assess each serviceman or woman's vulnerability to psychological wounding from exposure to combat and *(b)* to screen servicemen after combat operations for changes in their personality which may be attributed to psychological wounding. [275187]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Research undertaken at the King's Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR) has produced evidence which strongly suggests that such processes are ineffective and may indeed be counter-productive.

Recent research is summarised in the KCMHR "Ten Year Report" published in 2006 by the University of London and covering a decade's worth of research concerning the health of UK service personnel and veterans. This explains that selecting out individuals who might be at increased risk of developing mental health difficulties prior to deployment is a flawed strategy because, whether one uses clinical interviews or questionnaire-based methods, it is impossible to distinguish reliably between those who will go on to experience psychological difficulties and those who will not.

Furthermore there is evidence of a detrimental effect on those screened out, even though they may, in reality, be suitable for deployment.

Similarly, although mental health screening after deployment is practised by other countries, the Department is not aware of any evidence which demonstrates that formal mental health interviews or the use of questionnaires on return from deployment are able to distinguish effectively between those who might benefit from further intervention and those who might not. The MOD does, however, strongly support the notion that the psychological welfare of troops is primarily a chain of command responsibility. We place great emphasis on ensuring that those in positions of command remain vigilant for signs of any mental health difficulties and support these aims through our post-operational stress management protocols which include, but are not limited to, the use of decompression and of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM).

The MOD also funds six mental health pilot projects for veterans, has dedicated psychiatric nurses in Afghanistan and funds the Medical Assessment Programme at St. Thomas Hospital.

Armed Forces: Parachuting

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers in 3 Para are not *(a)* authorised, *(b)* trained and *(c)* certified to parachute. [274821]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 500 personnel out of 594 posts in 3 PARA are trained as paratroopers. Of those, 327 personnel are currently certified to parachute.

Armed Forces: Swine Flu

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what preparations his Department is making to ensure that military bases *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas are stocked with sufficient (i) antivirals, (ii) facemasks and (iii) gloves in relation to the swine influenza outbreak. [275049]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 617-618W, to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison).

Armed Forces: Telecommunications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Falcon programme from his Department's *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL was on 31 March (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007, (viii) 2008 and (ix) 2009. [275024]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Prior to 31 March 2007 the information is not held in the format requested and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For 31 March 2007 to 31 March 2009 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1144W.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much ammunition was allocated on all courses involved in the training of artillery personnel and forward observation officers to call in fire in each year since 2003; and what the cost of this ammunition was. [275018]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The quantity and cost of the 105 mm and 155 mm artillery ammunition allocated and fired at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill in support of phase 3 individual training is as follows:

Financial year	*Quantity*	*Cost (£ million)*
2003-04	20,541	16.5
2004-05	19,268	16.5
2005-06	19,169	16.1
2006-07	19,979	14.0
2007-08	10,950	15.0
2008-09	10,854	13.2

During 2007-08, RSA implemented changes to training course schedules that made more efficient use of ammunition. This dramatically reduces the amount of ammunition required, without impacting the quality of training provided, at a time when the cost of ammunition has risen sharply.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the disposal of its stock of Vector armoured vehicles; and how many vehicles he expects to donate to Iraq following the withdrawal of British forces from that country. [274743]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are no plans to gift any Vector vehicles to Iraq. The future role of the Vector Light Protected Patrol Vehicle when it is withdrawn from operations in Afghanistan is under review.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many undelivered Vector armoured vehicles his Department is contractually obliged to purchase; at what cost such purchases will be made; and what plans his Department has for the deployment or disposal of those vehicles. [274747]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence is contracted to procure an additional 20 Vector, at a total cost of £4.43 million, excluding VAT. At present the planned Out of Service date for Vector is 2015, and plans for the future role of Vector following its withdrawal from Afghanistan are still under review.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Mastiff and *(b)* Ridgback armoured vehicles have been (i) ordered for and (ii) delivered to UK Land Command; [274970]

(2) when he expects the order for the additional tranche of Mastiff vehicles announced by the Prime Minister on 7 October 2007 to be completed. [274971]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The first tranche of 108 Mastiff Protected Patrol Vehicles (PPVs) were delivered to HQ Land Forces by the end of 2007. A second tranche of 174 Mastiff PPVs have been ordered and to date 82 have been issued to HQ Land Forces. It is anticipated that this order will be completed by the end of September 2009.

In addition, 24 Mastiff PPVs have been ordered as part of the Talisman project. It is currently planned that they will be delivered by the end of this year.

157 Ridgback Urban Protected Patrol Vehicles have been ordered and to date, 37 have been issued to HQ Land Forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the performance of Vector armoured vehicles in Afghanistan; and what assessment he has made of the future status of the Vector fleet. [274984]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The evolving nature of the threat means that, following delivery of Mastiff 2, Ridgback and vehicles from the Protected Mobility package announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-30WS, we intend to withdraw the Vector Light Protected Patrol Vehicle from operations in Afghanistan. Vector, which has also faced some reliability issues, will have a phased withdrawal once the better protected vehicles from the Protected Mobility package have been deployed.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to his Department has been of *(a)* procuring and *(b)* maintaining the Vector fleet to date. [274986]

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Vector armoured vehicle programme has cost to date. [274742]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The current cost estimate for the Vector vehicle procurement programme is £44.43 million. This excludes costs for trials, MOD manpower costs, and additional items such as ancillaries, fuel, transport costs, ammunition, training and maintenance costs, which are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type are *(a)* available to be deployed immediately, *(b)* undergoing repair, *(c)* undergoing Bowman conversion, *(d)* in storage, *(e)* being used for training purposes and *(f)* otherwise assigned. [275042]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The figures requested are provided in the following table as at 8 May 2009:

Vehicle Type	*Undergoing repair*	*Undergoing Bowman conversion*	*In storage*[1]	*Used for training purposes*	*Other*[2]
AS90	1	3	44	32	3
Challenger 2	11	0	125	93	6
CRAARV	9	0	15	23	2
CVR(T)	295	0	83	153	16
Fuchs	1	0	0	0	0
FV430 (Mk2 + Bulldog)	117	0	339	141	26
Saxon	17	0	24	14	2
Shielder	2	5	14	5	4
Stormer	4	0	52	3	0
Titan	3	0	0	12	6
Trojan	0	0	0	13	5
Warrior	158	16	83	103	14
Mastiff	17	0	0	34	0
Panther	2	0	163	86	2
Ridgback	0	0	0	9	0

Vehicle Type	Undergoing repair	Undergoing Bowman conversion	In storage[1]	Used for training purposes	Other[2]
Snatch 2a and Snatch VIXEN	19	0	0	142	0
Vector	40	0	0	28	0
Viking (all variants)	13	0	16	64	2

[1] 'In storage' has been taken to mean those vehicles in controlled humidity environment as part of the whole fleet management programme
[2] 'Other' has been taken to mean those vehicles retained by the manufacturers for research and testing purposes.

I am withholding the information requested on the numbers of vehicles available for deployment for operational security reasons.

Army: Parachuting

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* 2 Para, *(b)* 3 Para, *(c)* 7 Para and *(d)* 9 Para are out-of-date parachutists under the two-year military parachutist in-date rule. [275232]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The percentage of parachutists within 2, 3, 7 and 9 PARA that are out-of-date in accordance with the two-year military in-date rule are provided in the following table:

Unit	Percentage of trained Parachutists out-of-date
2 PARA	27
3 PARA	35
7 PARA	32
9 PARA	7

Defence Medical Services: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength of each (i) service and (ii) trade of the Defence Medical Services is. [275043]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Manning statistics for the Defence Medical Services (DMS) are updated twice a year, in April and October. The April 2009 data are currently being collated, but the following table summarises the October 2008 figures. This table provides the required manning level of the DMS, the additional requirement for a manning and training margin (MTM), and the total number of personnel, which has also been split between the trained strength and those in training.

	Requirement	MTM[1]	Personnel trained strength	Personnel in training[2]	Personnel total
Royal Navy	1,311	211	1,328	248	1,576
Army	4,521	437	3,779	591	4,370
Royal Air Force	1,743	155	1583	75	1,658
Tri-service total	7,575	803	6,690	914	7,604

[1] The MTM includes a margin of trained personnel to take account of non-effective trained personnel. Non effective personnel are those who are trained but on terminal leave, long term sickness or mid career training. It also includes personnel who are undergoing speciality training i.e. holding some qualifications but not yet fully accredited. Our manning figures do not separate these elements, and so the table simply details the total requirement and the two constituent groups of personnel into the categories trained and 'in training'.
[2] "Personnel in training" does not include personnel who are already trained in a medical speciality and who are in career directed professional training.

Tables providing the figures for each medical speciality, that show the requirement and the number of trained personnel, but not personnel in training, in each medical and dental personnel division of the armed forces as at October 2008, have been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Data Protection

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of data loss from his Department involving *(a)* personal computers, *(b)* laptops and *(c)* portable USB devices have been recorded in 2009. [275111]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD takes any loss of information and associated media storage devices very seriously and has robust procedures in place to mitigate against such occurrences. New processes, instructions and technological aids are also being implemented to mitigate human errors and raise awareness of every individual in the Department. The following table shows the number of incidents of data losses from MOD involving *(a)* personal computers, *(b)* laptops and *(c)* portable USB flash memory devices that have been centrally recorded from 1 January to 11 May 2009.

	Total devices lost/stolen
Personal computers	4
Laptops	28
Portable USB flash memory devices	20

Departmental Housing

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of accommodation of *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more bedrooms his Department retains for the purposes of accommodating

serving (i) officers and (ii) officials on long-term secondment to his Department; and what his most recent estimate is of the average annual (A) gross and (B) net cost of each type of accommodation in each such category. [273432]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274463]

Mr. Hutton: MOD branches are not required to report centrally incidents of loss or theft of mobile phones and Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. As regards PDA BlackBerry devices, the following table shows losses by year since 2005. The PDA lost in 2009 is the only recorded incident involving a special adviser.

	PDAs lost
2005	1
2006	1
2007	1
2008	0
2009	1

Departmental Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each edition of his Department's in-house staff magazine. [274979]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The principal central MOD publication, Defence Focus is distributed to the Houses of Parliament via the House of Lords Library, who receive a number of copies. We are making arrangements for future editions of Defence Focus to be distributed to the House of Commons Library, and will ask that they hold a copy of each edition in their archive.

Departmental Redundancy

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people he expects to be made redundant from his Department in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [275123]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Every effort is made to avoid compulsory redundancies across the Department. A departmental early release scheme will result in 498 volunteers leaving the Department early in financial year 2009-10, but there are no plans for compulsory redundancies.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's staff have been made redundant in each of the last five years; and how much was paid in redundancy compensation in each such year. [275124]

Mr. Kevan Jones: To provide specific information would require a Department-wide trawl to ascertain total costs for all individuals who have left the Department on redundancy terms on local redundancy schemes. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

We hold information centrally on Department-wide voluntary early release schemes launched in 2005 and 2008, in connection with the civil service-wide reductions required under the 2004 and 2007 spending reviews. The total liability cost to the Department of individuals who left or are expected to leave on voluntary terms under these schemes is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*	*Releases*
2005-06	41	603
2006-07	51	636
2007-08	67	691
2008-09	21	344
2009-10	40	498

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military veterans there are resident in each local authority area in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [275180]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Vocational Guidance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the Careers Transition Partnership scheme in each year since 1998. [274976]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the hon. Gentleman.

Future Large Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the A400M from his Department's *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL was on 31 March 2009. [275122]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding the forecast cost of the A400M programme for 31 March 2009 as this information will be published in the Major Projects Report 2009 later this year.

Guided Weapons

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the number of *(a)* air-launched and *(b)* submarine-launched cruise missiles required to constitute a deterrent threat comparable to that of a Vanguard-class submarine; and what recent assessment he has made of the vulnerability of cruise missiles to destruction prior to reaching their targets. [275084]

Mr. Hutton: Assessments of submarine and air launched cruise missile systems were made as part of the supporting evidence for the December 2006 White Paper "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm6994). No cruise missile launched system was considered to be as capable as a ballistic missile based deterrent. Cruise missiles are more vulnerable to interception, largely because of their slower speed and lower trajectory.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the maximum range is of *(a)* the Trident D5 ballistic missile and *(b)* a submarine-launched cruise missile; and if he will make a statement; [275085]

(2) what the maximum number of nuclear warheads is which can be carried by a single *(a)* Trident and *(b)* cruise missile. [275086]

Mr. Hutton: The maximum range of a Trident D5 missile is approximately 6,000 nautical miles, and that of the UK's submarine launched Tomahawk cruise missile is approximately 1,000 nautical miles.

The maximum number of warheads that can be carried on a single Trident D5 missile is 12. The UK does not possess nuclear armed cruise missiles. The options described in the 2006 White Paper "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm6994) assumed that if the UK procured a nuclear armed cruise missile, then one warhead would be carried on each missile.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the capability of a state under attack from cruise missiles to determine prior to impact such missiles are armed with *(a)* conventional and *(b)* nuclear warheads. [275087]

Mr. Hutton: The UK keeps the capabilities of cruise missiles from countries of concern, including the types of warhead, under continual review. We judge that to determine the type of warhead whilst the missile is in flight is not currently possible. However, if the state under attack has prior knowledge of the aggressors' cruise missile capabilities, the type of warhead may already be known.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British personnel based in Kuwait will receive *(a)* the Operation Telic Medal and *(b)* a council tax rebate; and if he will make a statement. [274820]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Under the current arrangements armed forces personnel may only receive the Iraq Medal for service on the land and in the airspace of Iraq, as well as the waters of the Northern Gulf, Iraqi territorial seas and Iraqi internal waters. However, in common with all campaign medals the situation is kept under constant review, and continues to take into account the ongoing risks and rigours of the operations in which British troops are involved.

As announced on 7 September 2007, council tax relief is paid to Service personnel serving in Camp Buehring who are involved in Operation Telic (roulement) 11. Payment has been made since 1 April 2008 and, in line with the introduction of Operational Allowance payment for these personnel, it was backdated to 1 November 2007.

Kenley Common

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the proposed temporary barriers at Kenley Common to be *(a)* erected and *(b)* removed. [275216]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Erection of the temporary safety barriers at Kenley airfield will take place during May 2009 at a date to be arranged with the supplier of the fencing. Removal of the safety barriers will depend on the results of the trial of this safety measure.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he has allocated for the erection and removal of the temporary steel barriers proposed at Kenley Common; and whether provision has been made for such allocation in his Department's existing budget. [275217]

Mr. Kevan Jones: An allocation of £12,000 was made in the 2008-09 Air Cadets Organisations budget to cover the cost of purchase, delivery and siting of the temporary pedestrian safety barriers on the MOD airfield at Kenley. Removal of the barriers would incur no cost to the Department.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* Croydon Council, *(b)* Tandridge District Council, *(c)* the City of London and *(d)* users of Kenley Common on his Department's plans to erect temporary fencing at the Common. [275218]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department's proposal for the erection of temporary safety barriers around Kenley airfield was raised with Croydon council and the Corporation of London at a safety working group meeting on 9 December 2008.

In view of ongoing safety concerns and with the full endorsement of the Health and Safety Executive, the Department's intent to proceed with the erection of the safety barriers at the points from which gliders are launched was notified to Croydon council on 1 April 2009.

No discussions have been held with Tandridge district council since the planned location for the barriers does not fall within their boundaries.

No separate discussions have been held with users of Kenley Common.

Land Mines

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training facilities for landmine detection and clearance are available to members of the armed forces *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [275230]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Members of the UK armed forces can carry out explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training in any exercise or operational area in the UK or overseas. In addition, there are purpose-built specialist

facilities for mine detection and clearance training at: the Combat Engineer School at Minley; the Commando Training Centre Royal Marine in Lympstone; the Defence EOD Munitions and Search School at Lodge Hill in Kent; the Engineer Training and Advisory Team facility in Sennelager, Germany and Camp Bastion in Afghanistan.

A further purpose-built mine search and clearance facility is under construction at Carver Barracks in Wimbish.

Navy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many hours sea time on average is made available to members of *(a)* university Royal Naval units and *(b)* the Royal Naval Reserve annually; [274334]

(2) if he will make it his policy to make sea time on patrol craft attached to university Royal Naval units available to members of the Royal Navy Reserve. [274335]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Approximately 33,600 hours of sea time is made available to University Royal Navy Units annually.

The figures regarding the number of hours sea time for Royal Navy Reserves are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Royal Navy Reserves are provided with the necessary opportunities at sea to achieve and maintain their operational effectiveness and this remains an essential part of their training.

The Royal Navy Reserves can request to use University Royal Navy Unit patrol craft for training purposes, which are made available where it is possible to do so without detriment to mandated University Royal Navy Unit roles.

Navy: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel were serving aboard ship away from home on average in each year since 1997; and what proportion of total naval personnel this represented in each year. [275053]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Navy: Military Bases

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans his Department has for the continued functioning of the *(a)* frigate fleet and *(b)* submarine flotilla in the event of a naval base being put out of action following the implementation of the decision to allocate each type of warship to a single naval base. [274336]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Analysis conducted during the Naval Base Review confirmed a degree of excess capacity at the three Naval Bases; Devonport, Faslane and Portsmouth. This excess capacity deliberately provides a level of resilience for the Royal Navy Fleet which still exists today.

Decisions taken under the Maritime Change Programme, including the ongoing optimisation work, which I announced to the House on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 16WS do not impact upon that resilience. The Ministry of Defence is, therefore, confident that sufficient contingency exists across the three Naval Bases.

Navy: Telecommunications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Naval Extremely High/Super High Frequency Communications Terminals programme from his Department's *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL was on 31 March (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007, (viii) 2008 and (ix) 2009. [275023]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Prior to 31 March 2004 the information is not held in the format requested, and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the period 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2008 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1144W.

For 31 March 2009, the information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

	31 March 2009 (£ million)
Direct resource DEL	50
Indirect resource DEL	13
Capital DEL	123
Total	186

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the Trident replacement programme. [275708]

Mr. Hutton: Our current estimate, published in the December 2006 White Paper "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), is that the total procurement costs of the successor deterrent capability will be in the region of £15-£20 billion, at 2006-07 prices, for a four-boat fleet. This comprises £11-14 billion for the submarines, £2-3 billion for the possible refurbishment or replacement of the warhead and £2-3 billion for infrastructure. These costs are being refined as experts continue to engage in detailed discussion with industry.

Piracy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance his Department has issued to the Royal Navy regarding the onward transfer of individuals captured in the course of committing acts of piracy on the high seas. [274333]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Royal Navy Commanding Officers will be aware of guidance on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Law of Armed Conflict, and the requirements for Safety of Life at Sea

(SOLAS), all of which are pertinent to counter piracy operations. Such internationally agreed conventions provide a framework for the way counter piracy operations are conducted.

Guidance has been issued to UK forces off the coast of Somalia regarding the legal and evidential consideration for the transfer and subsequent prosecution of suspected pirates, under our arrangement with Kenya. This includes specific advice on the handling and detention of suspects.

UK forces operate under Rules of Engagement and there is a specific profile for forces conducting counter piracy operations.

RAF Brize Norton

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Chapel of Rest which is planned to accommodate repatriated bodies of fallen servicemen at RAF Brize Norton will have been completed; whether he plans to return repatriations to RAF Brize Norton from RAF Lyneham; and if he will make a statement. [274633]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: On current plans, repatriations will return to RAF Brize Norton in 2011. No decision has yet been made on when construction of a Chapel of Rest at the station might start. Appropriate facilities to support bereaved families and the dignity of the repatriation ceremony are to be provided as part of the overall development of the station.

RAF St. Athan

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the contract for the St. Athan military training academy was signed. [275227]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The contract to deliver the proposed Defence Training College at St. Athan has not yet been signed. Contract signature is anticipated to take place in summer 2010.

Reserve Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many volunteer reservists in each service have been committed to operations in each year since 2004. [274981]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 443W.

Information on volunteer reservists committed to operations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Regiment of Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Royal Regiment of Gibraltar; and when he next plans to review the number of troops stationed in that region. [274778]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Gibraltar Regiment continues to perform its primary role of supporting the defence and security of the territory of Gibraltar.

As part of the routine annual planning round cycle the Ministry of Defence continually reviews its future plans across Defence including British Forces Gibraltar.

Somalia: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what NATO assets will be used for Operation Atalanta under the *(a)* 2003 Berlin Plus arrangements and *(b)* 2002 NATO-EU Declaration on the European Security and Defence Policy; and if he will make a statement. [274819]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no plans to use NATO assets for Operation Atalanta.

Under the terms of the 2002 NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP, the EU has briefed non-EU European members of NATO on the operation.

Submarines: Decommissioning

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the submarine dismantling project. [274697]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The project currently has approval to undertake a £14 million assessment phase due to complete in 2011. This will be followed by the demonstration phase which will run from 2011 to 2013; costs for this phase have not yet been approved. Whole life cost figures will be developed as part of the preparation of the main gate business case, which is planned to be submitted for approval in 2013.

Submarines: Radiation Exposure

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances there have been of radioactive leaks from *(a)* nuclear-armed and *(b)* conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarines in each of the last 12 years. [274332]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There have been nine leaks that were potentially radioactive. All these instances involved Ship Submersible Nuclear submarines which are conventionally armed submarines.

The following table shows in which year each instance occurred.

	Number
1997	1
2000	1
2004	1
2005	1
2006	1
2007	1
2008	2
2009	1

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

China and India: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Chinese and *(b)* Indian governments on the reduction of greenhouse emissions; and if he will make a statement. [249826]

Joan Ruddock: I apologise for the delay in replying to this question, which was inadvertently misplaced.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly discusses climate change with key international partners, including China and India. Most recently he has met with Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, on his visit to China 3-6 May.

In addition, the UK and China enjoy a positive dialogue at official level, which takes place through the UK-China Working Group on Climate Change, launched in September 2006. Key areas of focus include: progress towards an ambitious outcome at the climate change talks in Copenhagen; reviewing and developing ongoing climate science collaboration between the UK and China; and adaptation to climate change through phase two of the Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture project. The last meeting of the working group took place in London in August 2008 and the next meeting is scheduled to take place in Beijing later this year.

The UK-India Structured Dialogue on Climate Change took place between senior officials in September last year in Delhi. The Secretary of State is looking forward to expanding on these conversations during international meetings such as the Major Economies Forum and the UNFCCC, as well as the UK-India bilateral summit, scheduled to take place later this year.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1806W, on liquefied petroleum gas, which trade groups he plans to meet; and when he plans to meet them. [272308]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I will be meeting with the UK Petroleum Industry Association (UK PIA) next month

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Stafford of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 326W, on solar power, what information and guidance his Department has provided for applicants for grants for solar photovoltaic technology whose applications are being kept on hold. [272097]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 2 is managed by Building Research Establishment (BRE). BRE have taken a number of measures to ensure that all interested parties are kept fully informed about the current hold on solar PV funding. In particular, information is available on the LCBP website to keep applicants and framework suppliers up to date on grant commitments and developments in relation to the programme. BRE have also contacted applicants and a helpline service is available.

Department officials also hold regular meetings with LCBP Phase 2 framework suppliers to track the progress of projects and to manage the programme through to June 2009.

Power Stations: Protest

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information held by his Department and its predecessors on plans relating to protests at *(a)* coal-fired and *(b)* nuclear power plants has been provided to (i) E.ON and (ii) other power generators in the last two years. [270771]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Contingency planning for protests at power stations is a matter for the owners, the local police force and in the case of nuclear plants, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. If it is aware of likely protests the Department may liaise with these parties to ensure contingency plans are in place to protect security of supply, although people also have rights to legally protest.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which seminars and public events on tidal power in the Severn he and his officials *(a)* have attended since 26 January 2009 and *(b)* propose to attend before the end of the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study Consultation. [271197]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The first Severn tidal power consultation has now closed. Since the launch of the consultation—which was attended by some 150 stakeholders—I have chaired several Severn tidal power parliamentary forums (for MPs, Lords, Welsh Assembly Members, and MEPs); a regional forum with senior representatives of local authorities, local business and environmental organisations; and launched the Severn Embryonic Technologies Scheme, to fund the development of new technology proposals. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State replied to the private Member's debate on the feasibility study in Westminster Hall.

DECC officials have (in addition to a large number of eral meetings with stakeholders) attended a wide of stakeholder and public meetings including those listed:

A meeting of the Steering Group for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Severn tidal power.

Multiple meetings with local strategic partnerships, council members and officials.

Two public meetings (in Brean and Burnham-on-Sea) organised by the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory).

Two public forums on tidal energy (in Bristol and Cardiff) organised by the Royal Society of Arts.

A public meeting in Penarth organised by Chris Franks AM and Leanne Wood AM.

A public meeting organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition in Bristol.

National Council of Women Seminar 2009 at Minsterworth, Gloucester.

Frampton on Severn Sailing Club meeting.

The South West TUC Conference.

The Institute of Civil Engineers Severn Tidal Energy Conference.

The BERR and DECC Business Climate Change and Energy Group (for energy companies and users).

Renewable Energy Association Ocean Energy Group.

Citi Institutional Investors Group.

Several meetings with regional port authorities.

The Department's partners in the feasibility study (including Welsh Assembly Government, the South West Regional Development Agency, and Government Office South West) and consultants to the feasibility study have also attended a number of meetings and events to provide information about the study and consultation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what means he has engaged with *(a)* the general public and *(b)* those likely to be affected by the Severn tidal power schemes shortlisted for further consideration consequent on consultation on the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study published on 26 January 2009. [271198]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The general public and those likely to be affected by the proposed shortlist of potential Severn tidal power schemes have been engaged in the feasibility study in the following ways:

A three month public consultation on the recommended short-list of schemes and the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. The consultation, supporting documents and an accessible summary of information were all made available on our website.

The Severn Tidal Parliamentary Forum for MPs, Lords and AMs.

The Severn Tidal Regional Forum co-chaired by Jane Davidson AM, the hon. Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) and me for senior representatives of local authorities, local business and environmental organisations.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Steering Group, which includes statutory advisers, environmental NGOs, business representatives and academics.

Numerous meetings with stakeholders.

Public meetings for local businesses, representatives and individuals as requested by the local MP.

Interviews with local and national media to raise the public profile of the consultation.

Encouraging stakeholders and third parties to hold events to inform their own constituencies and providing materials to aid their discussions.

Regular email updates to the over one thousand stakeholders and members of the public who have expressed an interest in receiving information on the feasibility study.

Nearly 10,000 unique visitors have visited our consultation website and around 700 consultation responses have been received.

Warm Front Scheme

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support is available to Warm Front customers to replace faulty domestic boilers fitted under the scheme. [274365]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Front customers who have received a gas boiler have access to a 24 hour breakdown line, which operates seven days a week and 365 days a year. In the majority of cases this service provides either a same day or next day response. Temporary heaters will also be provided under certain circumstances.

The Warm Front Scheme will first try to repair a faulty boiler. If the installer cannot repair it, they will recommend replacing the boiler with a similar model, for example, a standard boiler will be replaced with another standard boiler which is just as (or more) efficient.

In addition gas boilers installed or repaired under Warm Front receive two annual service visits. These are carried out approximately 12 and 24 months after the date of installation.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent support his Department has provided to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium and *(c)* large businesses in the West Midlands. [272857]

Ian Pearson: The Government are providing a range of support to businesses and industry. Information on the full range of national support available can be accessed at

www.realhelpnow.gov.uk

The West Midlands Task Force set up by the Minister for the West Midlands, has established a 'one stop shop' website

www.supportwm.co.uk

dedicated to signposting businesses and individuals in the region to support available, including specialist regional support.

In addition to help sign post businesses to support available in the region, Advantage West Midlands (AWM) is preparing a document which maps out the current initiatives available for difference size businesses—micro/small, medium and large. The final document will describe the initiatives in more detail. AWM are in the process of finalising this document and it will be accessible via

www.supportwm.co.uk.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 19 February 2009, transferred from the Department for International Development on 25 February 2009, on tax evasion by multinational companies. [274439]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 7 May 2009.

Ministers: Members Interests

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the trustee of the blind trust operated on behalf of the Secretary of State is; and on what basis that person was chosen. [272382]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* In accordance with the requirements of the ministerial code, my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State declared this information to the permanent secretary and the independent adviser on Ministers' interests. However, it is personal information and disclosure is not required.

Press: Competition

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of likely levels of competition within the newspaper and magazine wholesale distribution market in the period up to autumn 2009. [273408]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has undertaken a detailed examination of newspaper and magazine distribution arrangements over a period of several years. In October 2008, the OFT issued a final opinion providing guidance to industry on the compatibility of those arrangements with competition law. At the same time, the OFT published for consultation its proposed decision not to refer the newspaper and magazine supply sector (which includes newspaper and magazine distribution) to the Competition Commission for a market investigation. The consultation closes on 19 May and the OFT plans to publish its decision by autumn 2009. BERR understands the OFT is monitoring recent market developments, and will carefully consider representations made by interested parties, including those on likely levels of competition, before taking a final decision on a referral.

Retail Trade: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps his Department has taken to assist the retail industry in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency; and if he will make a statement. [274087]

Ian Pearson: The Government have launched the "Real Help Now" initiative to assist businesses through the downturn. This is a new service providing employers and individuals with easy access to free advice and support. In the North East the campaign "Real help for Businesses and People Now" aims to highlight the funds and finance made available by One North East, Business Link, Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus and the Government office for the North East.

The regional development agency, One North East is supporting businesses and business sectors across the region. Information and support on the Real Help Now initiative can be accessed in the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland area via Business Link. Latest figures for 2008-09 show that 102 retails businesses were supported by Business Link across the NE region, unfortunately data is not available for individual constituencies.

Royal Mail

Frank Dobson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 56W, on Royal Mail, how much he estimates will be charged in fees by *(a)* UBS, *(b)* Freshfields and *(c)* Deloitte for advising on the proposed part-privatisation of Royal Mail. [275889]

Mr. McFadden: The work on the partnership deal for Royal Mail is ongoing. It would not be appropriate to give an estimate of the overall cost of advisers' fees at this stage, as this remains subject to a range of variable factors. These include the length of the process, number of interested parties and the final shape of any partnership agreement.

Government will, of course, make the overall expenditure on advisers available once the deal has been completed and the costs are known.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on proposals to increase the level of fines issued under the penalty notices for disorder system; and if he will make a statement. [274611]

Mr. Straw: Apart from those from the hon. Lady, no representations have been received on reported proposals to increase the fine levels for penalty notices for disorder. I will be writing to the hon. Lady shortly in response to her letter of 28 April.

Under the Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme introduced under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, the penalty amounts are £80 for higher tier offences such as criminal damage and £50 for lower tier offences such as trespassing on a railway. If the recipient of a notice neither pays this penalty nor opts for a court hearing a fine of one and a half times the penalty amount is registered against him and enforced as any other fine. We have no plans to change these arrangements.

Ashwell Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* rooms and *(b)* other areas of HM Prison Ashwell are inoperable following the disturbance of 11 April 2009; and for how long he estimates the damaged areas will be inoperable. [272822]

Mr. Hanson: Following the disturbance A, B, C, and D wings, totalling 415 accommodation rooms, are out of use.

On the non-accommodation areas, the Potatopak workshop is out of use. It is not yet possible to say for how long the Plastics workshop will be out of use. The Paints CIT (Construction Industry Training) workshop is due to be ready for use on 11 May, and the Offender Management Unit (OMU) will be refurbished and is due for completion in September 2009.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the disturbance at HMP Ashwell on 11 April 2009 arising from *(a)* damage to prison property, *(b)* deploying additional Prison Service staff and other emergency services personnel to deal with the disturbance, *(c)* transporting prisoners to other prisons and *(d)* conducting an investigation into the incident. [272821]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS)/Prison Service investigation which is due to be completed by 29 May will estimate the cost to NOMS of resolving the disturbance. I will make the findings of the investigation and our conclusions on it available to the House in due course.

The investigation will not cover damage to property as decisions which will determine the costs of damage have yet to be made, and are not within the scope of the investigation. I will write to the hon. Member when known.

The cost of the other emergency services is a matter for the individual emergency services.

Commonhold

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1615, on commonhold tenure, what steps have been taken to promote the operation of shared ownership leases in residential commonhold units since 2006. [274712]

Mr. Hanson: No steps have been taken to promote the operation of shared ownership leases in residential commonhold. Long leases of more than seven years, including shared ownership leases, are not possible in commonhold.

Affordable housing can be provided in commonhold by means of shared ownership trusts. The Finance Act 2007 extended the same stamp duty land tax treatment available to shared ownership leases in leasehold to shared ownership trusts in commonhold.

Coroners: Complaints

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints his Department has received on *(a)* coroner Dr. Paul Knapman and *(b)* deputy coroner Dr. William Dolman in the last five years; and what steps have been taken in response to such complaints. [272686]

Mr. Straw: The Lord Chief Justice and I have joint responsibility, through the Office for Judicial Complaints, for considering complaints against the judiciary, including coroners. However, those powers do not extend to deputy coroners.

We have recently announced that we will usually make public information about members of the judiciary who are removed from office as a result of the consideration of a complaint or conduct issue about them. We do not normally comment, however, on whether or not a complaint has been lodged against a named member of the judiciary until such time as any such matter is fully investigated and the Lord Chief Justice and I have decided that a disciplinary sanction is required. In exceptional circumstances, however, the Office for Judicial Complaints may confirm that an investigation is under way, where the matter is already in the public domain.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the number of inaccurate records on the *(a)* National Offender Management Information System, *(b)* Offender Risk Assessment System, *(c)* Offender Management National Infrastructure and *(d)* Libra Case Management System. [274191]

Mr. Straw: NOMIS is currently operating solely as a pilot system in the Isle of Wight cluster. NOMIS holds 1,508 offender records, solely relating to offenders currently held within HMP Isle of Wight. There have been 31 instances of records being incomplete, six instances of inaccurate records due to user error and a further 22 records whose inaccuracy will be resolved by the system being upgraded to the latest version. Incomplete and inaccurate records are less than 4 per cent. of all NOMIS records. The number of inaccurate records is small. Any errors are corrected as soon as they are identified. All systems have processes in place to minimise data input errors.

No information is kept of the number of occasions it is necessary to amend records held on the Offender Assessment System (OASys), which are shared with the offender in order to maintain accuracy. If an inaccuracy is identified, it is corrected immediately.

The Offender Management National Infrastructure (OMNI) is the IT infrastructure used within the National Probation Service: it is not in itself a database and thus does not hold records.

Although there is no process for summarising the number of inaccurate records, HM Courts Service has systems in place to maximise the accuracy of the data held on the Libra system. Any inaccurate records that are found on the system are corrected as soon as they are identified.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average price was of a property sold in each year since 1995, expressed in 2009 prices. [274070]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is shown in the following table.

£

	Annual average price	*Annual average price at Q1 2009 prices*
1995	60,079	96,297
1996	71,519	98,777
1997	78,226	104,749
1998	84,669	109,617
1999	94,846	120,936
2000	108,164	133,950
2001	119,275	145,153
2002	138,200	165,417
2003	156,154	181,649
2004	178,542	201,685
2005	189,500	208,241
2006	203,708	216,870
2007	219,468	223,975
2008	216,664	212,946

Note:
The third column of the table shows the average price of properties sold in each year, adjusted to Q1 (January-March) 2009 prices using the all-items non-seasonally adjusted retail prices index (RPI). The RPI has been used because it includes price changes to housing-related items such as mortgage interest payments, depreciation, council tax, dwelling insurance and ground rent, which are not included in the consumer prices index.

Knives: Convictions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged under 21 years have been convicted for offences related to possession of a knife in each of the last five years; and how many received *(a)* a caution, *(b)* an absolute or conditional discharge, *(c)* a fine, *(d)* a community sentence, *(e)* a suspended custody, *(f)* immediate custody and *(g)* another disposal. [274192]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or sentence[1], committed by offenders aged under 21, England and Wales, 2004-08

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	11,429	11,988	13,135	12,426	11,405
Cautions, reprimands and final warnings	5,089	5,389	6,288	5,714	4,188
Absolute/Conditional discharge	843	737	620	519	352
Fine	697	531	403	308	246
Community sentence	3,565	3,722	4,043	4,017	4,498
Suspended sentence	4	61	285	361	479
Immediate custody	996	1,089	1,217	1,255	1,424
Other disposal	235	259	279	252	218

[1] As recorded by the police on the police national computer.
[2] The figures are a count of offences rather than offenders. Where an offender has been sentenced for several possession offences each sentence has been counted.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

PNC data has been used here rather than court data, which is the usual source of published sentencing statistics. The PNC data provides more up to date figures ahead of the finalised annual court data and was used for the Ministry of Justice's publication "Knife Crime Sentencing: Quarterly Brief" published on 12 March 2009 and available from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/knife-crime-sentencing.htm

Magistrates Courts: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much HM Courts Service spent on the maintenance of magistrates courts in each year since 1997. [274149]

Mr. Straw: Her Majesty's Courts Service was created on 1 April 2005. Prior to that date ownership and operation of magistrates courts was the responsibility of the forty two magistrates courts committees in England and Wales. No detailed consolidated financial information is available for that period.

HM Courts Service costs related to the maintenance of magistrates courts buildings for financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 were as follows:

			£000
	Resource	*Capital*	*Total*
2005-06	22,941	--	22,941
2006-07	25,473	12,460	37,933
2007-08	22,403	14,900	37,303

Her Majesty's Courts Service is unable separately to identify the capital maintenance expenditure element of magistrates courts capital expenditure for 2005-06.

Offences against Children

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged 21 years or over have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for offences related to sexual activity with a child under 13 in each year since 2004. [274150]

Mr. Straw: Information on the number of persons aged 21 years and over who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for sexual activity with a child under 13 in England and Wales 2004 to 2007 (latest available) is contained in the table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation.

Number of persons aged 21 or over proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to sexual activity with a child aged under 13[1], England and Wales[2,3]

	2004		2005		2006		2007	
Offence category	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Sexual assault of a male child aged under 13	19	4	72	16	82	41	81	41
Rape or attempted rape of a child aged under 13	40	5	152	57	142	64	142	69
Sexual assault of a female child aged under 13	128	29	367	152	400	238	448	266
Sexual activity with a child aged under 13	62	19	229	80	199	131	217	128

Number of persons aged 21 or over proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to sexual activity with a child aged under 13[1], England and Wales[2,3,4]

	2004		2005		2006		2007	
Offence category	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Familial sexual offences of a child aged under 13	7	4	35	20	34	17	37	24
Abuse of children aged under 13 through prostitution and pornography	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Abuse of trust—sexual offences against a child aged under 13	2	—	2	4	1	1	2	—
Total	263	58	817	330	858	402	929	508

[1] Includes the following statutes under the Sexual Offences Act 2003:
Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 (1) (2) & (3), 9 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & (2) & (3), 10 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & (3), 11 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(ii) & (2), 12 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & 2, 25 (1)(c)(ii) and (2)-(4)(a)(b).
S.47(1) (a), (b) & (c)(ii), (2), (3) & (6), 49 (1)(a)(b)(ii) & (2)

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates courts took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 569WS, on prisons and probation, how many prison places will be built in each of the next three years. [274193]

Mr. Straw: In total 1,785 new places are planned for delivery in 2009. The table shows the number of new places currently planned for delivery in each of the next three years:

	Prison places
2010	2,968
2011	1,200
2012	1,980

Figures include new build places and those provided through conversions of existing buildings, for example the conversion to a new prison of former RAF accommodation at Coltishall, Norfolk. Places provided through other measures such as cell reclaims are excluded.

I announced on 27 April that we will provide 7,500 places through new 1,500 place prisons. The construction of the new prisons will allow for the closure of older less efficient places. We plan to begin the tendering process for the construction and operation of the first two 1,500 place prisons in the summer.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether people sentenced to two months custody or less and then released on end of custody licence are entitled to receive a discharge grant; what proportion of such people received such a grant in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [275491]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners sentenced to two months or less in custody and released on End of Custody Licence (ECL) are not entitled to a discharge grant.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been sentenced to two months custody or less and then released on end of custody licence before serving any part of the sentence since 1 July 2007. [275492]

Mr. Hanson: No prisoners sentenced to less than two months have been released on ECL without serving any part of their sentence.

Under the End of Custody Licence scheme eligible prisoners may be released up to 18 days earlier than the half-way point of their sentence subject to serving a minimum of seven days in custody after sentence.

Prisoners Release: Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much expenditure has been incurred from the budgets of *(a)* prison governors and *(b)* his Department in subsistence payments to offenders in each of the last five years. [274152]

Mr. Straw: The expenditure paid by prisons on subsistence payments has been included in the recorded expenditure, for discharge grants. It would incur disproportionate costs to separate the expenditure on subsistence payments from discharge grants as we would need to survey all prison establishments.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many suicides within *(a)* adult prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions took place within the first seven days of custody in each year since 1997. [274147]

Mr. Straw: Any death in custody is a tragic event. The Government are committed to learning from such events and reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody. The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as

mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures.

Research on prisons and prison deaths has highlighted the early period of custody as a particularly vulnerable period for self-inflicted deaths. A lot of work has been put into reducing the number of such deaths in general, as well as specifically, in early custody. The following table details the number of self-inflicted deaths that occurred within seven days of commencing custody. Some prisons hold both adults and young offenders; therefore the figures are broken down by the age profile of the prison.

Type of prison	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Adult	14	19	22	20	6	20	18	23	13	6	10	9
Adult/YOI	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
YOI	1	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information becomes available.

Prisons: Barking and Dagenham

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) who his Department consulted prior to the decision to secure the site at Beam Park West to build a prison; who will be responsible for making the decision on the planning application to construct a prison on that site; and whether his Department has contingency plans for circumstances in which planning permission for that site is refused; [275074]

(2) which *(a)* Ministerial colleagues and *(b)* government agencies he consulted prior to making the decision to build a prison on the Beam Park West site; [275113]

(3) who will be responsible for submitting the planning application for the construction of a prison on the Beam Park West site; [275114]

(4) what plans he has to consult *(a)* resident groups, *(b)* local councillors, *(c)* housing associations and *(d)* others in the local community on the proposed prison at Beam Park West; [275090]

(5) what mechanisms have been put in place to enable local residents' views to be taken into account in the process of construction of the proposed prison at Beam Park West. [275120]

Mr. Straw: My Department consulted both the London Development Agency and the Greater London Authority concerning the availability of sites in the London area.

The responsibility for submitting the planning application is with the head of site assessment and planning within NOMS. It will be submitted to the London borough of Barking and Dagenham and determined by the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation.

Prior to the submission of a planning application for the site, officials will hold a public exhibition of the proposals. A wide area surrounding the site will be leafleted, advising local people of the exhibition and our proposals for the prison. The local planning authority will be consulted about the scope, location, date and time of the exhibition and about specific groups of local people, councillors and others they feel we should make a special presentation to.

We will consider the options available to us should the application be refused.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects the proposed prison on the Beam Park West site to reach its prisoner capacity; [275076]

(2) what timetable he has set for construction of the proposed prison on the Beam Park West site. [275091]

Mr. Straw: Construction activity at the Beam Park West site will commence once the contracts have been awarded and a successful bidder is in place. This timetable is therefore dependent on successful conclusion of the procurement and detailed planning processes, currently estimated to be mid-2011. Construction itself will take approximately two years.

It is intended that the proposed Beam Park West site will be populated in a phased manner taking into account wider population management issues across the estate. It is anticipated that within six months of opening, the site would be running at its intended capacity.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) by what mechanisms the criteria for bids for *(a)* construction and *(b)* operation of the proposed prison on the Beam Park West site will be published; and when he expects such criteria to be published; [275092]

(2) what timetable he has established for private contractors to bid for the operating contract for Beam Park West Prison. [275119]

Mr. Straw: The tender criteria for Beam Park West will be published via an invitation to tender (ITT), and in line with the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) compliant EU procurement directives, during the main procurement later this year.

The timetable for bidder engagement is expected to commence at some stage this year with the publication of the relevant OJEU notice.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs which will be created by building a prison on the Beam Park West site; [275115]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on local transport infrastructure of the construction of a prison on the Beam Park West site. [275116]

Mr. Straw: Research indicates that the operation of a 1,500 place prison is likely to create around 800 jobs, many of which are likely to be held by local people.

It is not anticipated that the construction of a prison will have an adverse impact on local transport infrastructure. However, following discussions with the local planning and highways authorities, a transport assessment will be submitted in support of the planning application.

Prisons: Violence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many violent incidents *(a)* requiring at least one of the parties to attend hospital and *(b)* resulting in a death there have been in prisons in each of the last five years. [274626]

Mr. Hanson: Every homicide in prison custody is a tragedy. Reducing violence, whatever the level of severity, in prisons is a priority. We are committed to working towards a zero tolerance approach to prison violence. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy and since mid 2007 this has been applied to both the public and contracted out estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

Data are not held centrally on the numbers attending hospital as a result of violent incidents. However, data are provided in the following table on assault incidents resulting in attendance at hospital as inpatients.

Apparent homicides and assault incidents resulting in attendance at hospital as inpatients

Measure	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
(a) Assault incidents resulting in attendance at hospital as inpatient[1]	235	263	235	210	235
(b) Apparent homicides[2]	2	3	0	2	3

[1] Assault incidents resulting in attendance at hospital as an inpatient are as reported on IRS at 31 March 2009.
[2] Numbers of apparent homicides are subject to confirmation at inquest and should be interpreted as provisional.

Attendance at hospital is dependent, in part, on the availability of health care facilities within a prison. A large local prison with inpatient facilities may well care for injured prisoners "in house". A prison without such facilities would send the prisoner to an outside hospital.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what office facilities are provided for the exclusive use of each of the trade unions recognised by his Department in *(a)* departmental premises and *(b)* the premises of his Department's executive agencies; and what the notional monetary value of such provision was in 2008-09. [271951]

Mr. Straw: In departmental premises the Departmental Trade Union Side are currently provided with an office for their use in the MOJ headquarters building. The value of this facility is estimated at £40,000 p.a.

In relation to the Department's Executive Agencies: in Her Majesty's Prison Service the Prison Officers Association (POA) are provided with an office for their sole use in all establishments. The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and Prospect share an office and Prison Governors Association (PGA) have sole use of an office within the National Offender Management Service Headquarters building in London, the value of which facility is approximately £50,000.00 per annum.

In addition and in all other Executive Agencies, trade unions are provided with varying type of facilities although none is for their exclusive use.

Due to the variability of such provision it is not possible to provide a notional monetary value.

Young Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 or 17 and *(c)* between 18 to 21 years served custodial sentences of (i) less than three months and (ii) between three and six months in each year since 1997. [271982]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows figures for how many people were detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales aged *(a)* under 16 *(b)* 16 or 17 and *(c)* between 18 and 21-years-old who were serving custodial sentences of (i) less than or equal to three months and (ii) between three and six months as at 30 June in each year since 1997:

		Less than or equal to three months	*Greater than three less than or equal to six months*
2000	*Female*		
	16-17	2	19
	18-21	30	59
	Male		
	Under 16	9	70
	16-17	45	342
	18-21	369	695
2001	*Female*		
	16-17	1	19
	18-21	45	48
	Male		
	Under 16	6	52
	16-17	50	348
	18-21	404	656
2002	*Female*		
	16-17	0	13
	18-21	31	39
	Male		
	Under 16	6	83
	16-17	35	342
	18-21	370	666

		Less than or equal to three months	Greater than three less than or equal to six months
2005	*Female*		
	16-17	2	19
	18-21	24	42
	Male		
	Under 16	4	71
	16-17	35	370
	18-21	332	674
2004	*Female*		
	16-17	2	17
	18-21	43	47
	Male		
	Under 16	5	76
	16-17	24	311
	18-21	330	710
2003	*Female*		
	16-17	0	11
	18-21	37	46
	Male		
	Under 16	3	64
	16-17	79	315
	18-21	368	785
2002	*Female*		
	Under 16	0	2
	16-17	1	19
	18-21	36	49
	Male		
	Under 16	6	73
	16-17	14	320
	18-21	354	723
2001	*Female*		
	Under 16	0	2
	16-17	0	14
	18-21	38	53
	Male		
	Under 16	2	90
	16-17	8	442
	18-21	434	926
2000	*Female*		
	Under 16	0	2
	16-17	1	18
	18-21	34	45
	Male		
	Under 16	6	72
	16-17	14	313
	18-21	356	709
1999	*Female*		
	Under 16	4	1
	16-17	6	17
	18-21	30	36
	Male		
	Under 16	26	41
	16-17	111	240
	18-21	382	707
1998	*Female*		
	Under 16	4	1
	16-17	8	11
	18-21	27	41
	Male		
	Under 16	20	48
	16-17	92	241
	18-21	371	750
1997	*Female*		
	Under 16	3	0
	16-17	4	7
	18-21	17	28
	Male		
	Under 16	20	40
	16-17	81	220
	18-21	322	758

The sentence lengths given in the table are in accordance with normal practice. The figures are a re-working of material published in the Prison Statistics of England and Wales, 1997-2002 and Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2003-07, copies of which are available in the House of Commons Library.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the re-offending rates of persons discharged from *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* secure children's homes in each of the next 12 months. [274996]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have a target to achieve a 10 per cent. reduction in the frequency rate of reoffending by 2011 against the 2005 baseline. We do not forecast on a monthly basis.

The latest National Statistics on reoffending shows that there has been a 16.2 per cent. fall in the frequency rate of reoffending of juveniles (both male and female) released from custody between 2000 and 2006. Overall the frequency rate of juvenile reoffending has fallen by 18.7 per cent. between 2000 and 2006.

Youth Custody

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the size of the juvenile population in *(a)* young offender institutions,

(b) secure training centres and *(c)* secure children's homes in each of the next 12 months. [274997]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is responsible for commissioning and purchasing places in the under-18 secure estate. It monitors the demand for places and adjusts capacity across the estate when necessary in response to changes in demand.

The YJB recently analysed the level of demand for secure training centre and secure children's home places in order to determine the optimum number of SCH beds to be commissioned in the recent contracting round. It looked at data relating to the last three years. The YJB is confident that the number of places being commissioned over the next 12 months in each sector of the under-18 secure estate will meet demand.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were moved *(a)* from secure training centres to secure children's homes and *(b)* from secure children's homes to secure training centres in the last 12 months. [274998]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board records individual movements between establishments but does not centrally collate the data in a format which would enable it to provide the information requested. To do that would require a review of each case over the past 12 months, which could not be undertaken without incurring disproportionate costs.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children from *(a)* London and *(b)* the South East outside London the Youth Justice Board were sent to (i) secure children's homes and (ii) secure training centres in the last 12 months. [274999]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out how many young people from London and the South East region have been remanded in, or sentenced to, custody by the courts and subsequently placed by the Youth Justice Board in secure training centres or secure children's homes in the period, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

Region	*Secure children's home*	*Secure training centre*	*Total*
London	77	293	370
South East	60	125	185
Total	137	418	555

These data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board from administrative computer systems.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to provide humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. [275065]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) contributed £17 million in 2008 to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) emergency appeals which respond to chronic food insecurity in Afghanistan. These appeals reached 8.7 million of Afghanistan's most vulnerable people. WFP assessments indicate that in-country stocks are now sufficient to meet needs until the next harvest.

DFID also allocated £10 million over five years (2008-13) to the HALO trust, in addition to £3 million this year of core funding, to help expand their de-mining operations in Afghanistan. £4 million was also provided (2007-08) to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support enforcement of international humanitarian law and facilitate the supply of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

In addition, DFID provides core funding to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), all of whom have operations in Afghanistan.

CDC

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will instruct CDC Group to publish a financial review for 2008. [273628]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: CDC published its annual report and accounts for 2008 on 30 April 2009. These are available from the CDC website at:

www.cdcgroup.com

and in the Library of the House.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [275066]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I visited eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 26 to 29 April 2009 and was made acutely aware of the alarming humanitarian situation. The Lords Resistance Army (LRA), FDLR (ex-FAR Interhamwe) and other rebel groups, continue to prey on the civilian population, provoking displacement and untold suffering. The United Nations (UN) estimates some 1.7 million are displaced, with over 300,000 newly displaced in 2009. The humanitarian community is currently bracing itself for the humanitarian consequences of the joint FARDC and MONUC military operation against the FDLR (Operation Kimia II) in South Kivu and has, as a result, developed contingency plans. In meetings with MONUC, I pressed upon MONUC the importance of ensuring adequate steps are taken to mitigate the impact of military operations on civilians and to work closely with the humanitarian community.

The well-established humanitarian response to the ongoing crisis in eastern DRC is able to cope with current levels of displacement and existing need. DFID established Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in 2005, run by UNICEF with NGO partners, to provide water and sanitation, shelter, non-food items and education for conflict affected populations. Other DFID partners, including Oxfam, IRC, MERLIN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provide food, nutrition and health assistance. However, DFID is constantly assessing the situation and is ready to provide additional support if necessary.

Developing Countries: Malaria

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle malaria in the developing world. [275002]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government provide significant support for efforts to reduce malaria. We have committed £1 billion from 2008 to 2015 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, as well as directly supporting developing countries, research and other international organisations. To date we have provided £49 million in support to the Roll Back Malaria partnership. We are providing £40 million for the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (AMFm)—a financing mechanism to make effective malaria drugs available and affordable through public, private and non-governmental channels. The UK is also providing 20 million extra bed nets towards achieving the goal of universal bed net coverage by 2010.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is giving to developing countries for measures to reduce the number of deaths from malaria. [275026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government's support to reduce the number of deaths from malaria is provided through global partnerships; multilateral agencies; and bilateral country programmes. Most of these are for both the treatment of malaria and reduction of incidence, including through widespread use of insecticide treated mosquito nets (ITNs).

We have committed £1 billion from 2008 to 2015 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. The UK is also providing 20 million extra bed nets towards achieving the goal of universal bed net coverage by 2010. Our bilateral programmes focus on giving support to countries to develop strong and sustainable health systems that are able to scale-up the coverage of treatment including artemisinin combination therapy (ACT) and ITNs. In Kenya our support includes the purchase and distribution of 14 million ITNs and 5 million re-treatment kits. In Mozambique our support will help reach their Ministry of Health's target of 95 per cent. ITN coverage for pregnant women and children under five in at least one province and at least 60 per cent. in two other provinces.

Food Supply

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what additional resources his Department is providing for measures to combat world food shortages in the global economic downturn. [275029]

Mr. Michael Foster: To combat world food shortages the UK Government have announced a package of assistance worth over £908 million to tackle high food prices. This included both short and long-term measures:

- £400 million for agricultural research over five years
- £30 million to the World Food Programme
- £22 million extra for the Ethiopia safety net (July 08)
- £8 million for nutrition monitoring
- £76 million for road building in DRC
- £32 million for social protection in Mozambique and Bangladesh
- £6.5 million for food aid and agricultural inputs for Afghanistan
- £217 million in budget support for Ghana, Uganda and Malawi.

More information and analysis of progress towards meeting the MDG 1 Hunger target and what the UK is doing to achieve this target is available in the DFID Hunger Factsheet.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress in ensuring global food security. [275030]

Mr. Michael Foster: Global food price rises at the end of 2007 and throughout 2008 have hit the poorest people in developing countries the hardest. While international prices for most food commodities have come down, they remain high, especially at country level, and over 900 million people cannot meet their food needs. Globally the number of hungry people is forecast to top one billion this year. Food security is now threatened by the global economic crisis. The problem continues not just because prices remain high in many developing countries, but also because recession is reducing people's incomes.

The UK has led the international response and has called for all donors, international organisations, private sector and civil society to double efforts to tackle global hunger and poverty. UK has announced a package of assistance worth over £908 million to tackle high food prices. The UK Prime Minister has emphasised it would be wrong to reduce support for poor countries at this time.

More information and analysis of progress towards meeting the MDG 1 Hunger target and what the UK is doing to achieve this target is available in the DFID Hunger Factsheet.

HIV Infection: International Co-operation

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on global efforts to address HIV/AIDS. [275006]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers and officials maintain an extensive dialogue with key international partners. I have recently discussed AIDS issues with senior figures at the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, World Health Organisation, UN Population Fund and World Bank and with Ministers during recent country visits to Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

There is regular ongoing UK/US dialogue between Ministers, and at official level between DFID and PEPFAR staff (The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief). These discussions will continue.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty and hunger by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [274933]

Mr. Michael Foster: Global food price rises at the end of 2007 and throughout 2008 have hit the poorest people in developing countries the hardest. Higher food prices have triggered an increase in hunger worldwide—last year 75 million more people have been pushed into hunger—making the task of reaching the MDG 1 target more difficult. Furthermore in many developing countries recession is reducing people's income, making it harder to buy food. While international prices for most food commodities have come down, they remain high, especially at country level, and over 900 million people cannot meet their food needs. However, hunger has been reduced in Eastern and South East Asia and these regions, along with Latin America and Caribbean, are expected to meet the target.

More information and analysis of progress towards meeting the MDG 1 Hunger target and what the UK is doing to achieve this target is available in the "DFID Hunger Factsheet".

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's aid to *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Asia and *(c)* the Americas was allocated to (i) agricultural support, (ii) education and (iii) health care in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [274934]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the UK's bilateral expenditure are contained in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is available from in the Library and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Relevant figures are produced in the following table.

Proportion of DFID bilateral expenditure to Africa, Asia and the Americas by broad sector, 2005-06 to 2007-08

Percentage

		2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Africa	Agriculture	0.6	1.0	1.1
	Education	11.7	15.9	15.5
	Health	17.5	18.3	20.0
Asia	Agriculture	3.9	5.0	3.0
	Education	17.0	15.2	12.2
	Health	19.3	20.5	20.8
Americas	Agriculture	-1.2	3.4	1.9
	Education	5.0	16.9	5.6
	Health	9.5	6.6	9.4

Note:
Negative figures represent accounting adjustments, not a net flow to the UK.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to alleviate the humanitarian conditions of people in Gaza in the last 12 months. [275057]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) funds the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide schooling for 200,000 children in Gaza, and health care for the 70 per cent. of Gazans who are refugees. Our funding for the Palestinian Authority also helps support delivery of essential services in Gaza.

Since December 2008 DFID pledged close to £47 million to assist with humanitarian relief and early recovery activities. Of this, nearly £7 million has already been allocated to non-governmental organisations. A further £12.8 million has been allocated to United Nations agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Throughout this period we have also consistently lobbied the Israeli Government on the need to improve access for humanitarian supplies and personnel into Gaza.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* financial aid and *(b)* building material his Department has provided to Gaza since November 2008; and how much such building material has been delivered into Gaza to date. [275519]

Mr. Michael Foster: Following the Gaza conflict which started in December 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) has pledged £46.8 million to assist with humanitarian relief and early recovery activities. £19.8 million has already been allocated to United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organisations. Since 2008, DFID has also funded the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide schooling to 200,000 children in Gaza and healthcare to the 70 per cent. of Gazans who are refugees. DFID also provides funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to deliver essential services in Gaza.

DFID has not directly provided building materials in Gaza. However, a number of the projects we fund are helping to provide shelter, and rehabilitate schools and basic water infrastructure. Further details on these projects are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2009/DFID-UK-funding-to-2009-Gaza-Crisis/

We do not know exactly how much building material has been allowed into Gaza to date. Severe restrictions remain on the import of water and sanitation materials, cement and other reconstruction materials. Meaningful recovery and reconstruction of houses and infrastructure will be very difficult while these remain in place.

St. Helena: Overseas Aid

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the level of private funding for the island of St. Helena of the decision to delay the construction of an airport on the island. [274788]

Mr. Michael Foster: Our assessment of the effects on private sector investment following the pause in the negotiations on the St. Helena airport is that it is likely to be reduced in this financial year. This is because many current plans for investment by local businesses, which are modest in scale, have been put on hold pending a final decision following the consultation that is under way. In regard to foreign investment, the St. Helena Development Agency (SHDA) has received interest from five investors in a range of development projects, which are now on hold. The largest potential investor in the hotel resort sector has confirmed commitment to St. Helena while the prospect of air access remains.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what assumptions the reference to increased uncertainties in respect of funding for the proposed airport in St. Helena in the St. Helena Air Access Consultation document was based; and if he will make a statement. [274808]

Mr. Michael Foster: The St. Helena Air Access Consultation Document refers to uncertainties about the assumptions underlying the airport investment. Examples given in paragraph 36 are: uncertainties about the possibility of cost escalation, due to currency fluctuation for example; and uncertainty over the speed with which benefits can build up, for example the rate and level at which tourism projections would materialise. The document also refers to the worsening global economic conditions and uncertainty over predictions as to how long the current situation will last.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has he made of the change to the annual level of subsidy for the Island of St. Helena following the decision to defer a decision on the construction of an airport on the Island. [274809]

Mr. Michael Foster: The decision to pause negotiations on the St. Helena airport contract has not affected the level of DFID financial assistance for the island in the current planning cycle. The present three-year assistance package, which was negotiated with the Government of St. Helena (SHG) in 2007 remains unchanged. Our next assessment of the annual level of subsidy for St. Helena will be carried out jointly with SHG in early 2010. This will take into account the decision on the airport following the conclusion of the consultation now under way.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance the Government has given to Darfur in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [275620]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 401W, and to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 849W.

World Bank: Health

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the World Bank in delivering successful outcomes through its health programmes since 1997. [275004]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The World Bank has a key role to play in supporting countries develop and sustain strong health systems. The World Bank's role in health was recently evaluated by the bank's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG). We took a close interest in the evaluation and participated actively in discussions of the group's findings at the bank's board.

The bank is committed to improving its performance in health. We believe that the bank's Health, Nutrition and Population Strategy, which was launched in 2007, sets the right direction and is already helping to address several of the weaknesses identified by IEG's evaluation. The bank recognises that it needs to improve performance and to ensure that it has the capacity it needs to play an effective role, especially in Africa.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Mentally Ill

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has issued guidance to NHS trusts on the treatment of mentally ill patients who attend accident and emergency departments in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [275429]

Phil Hope: On 30 April 2004, a new checklist, "Improving the management of patients with mental ill health in emergency care settings", was published by the Department. A copy has been placed in the Library. The checklist is for accident and emergency staff to help them with their patients with mental health problems. The checklist outlines areas for action and includes examples of the ways in which some services are addressing some of these challenges.

Cancer

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer patients with each type of cancer there have been in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [274406]

Ann Keen: Information on the numbers of patients living with cancer in each primary care trust (prevalence) is not held centrally. However, the number of new cases of cancer diagnosed in each year (incidence) since 1997 by Government Office Region can be viewed on the Office for National Statistics' website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust spent on cancer services for each type of cancer in each year since 1997. [274403]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows an estimate of the gross expenditure on cancers and tumours by the national health service in England for all cancer and tumour types, for the last four available financial years. This information was first collected in 2003-04 and is not available for any previous years.

Estimated gross expenditure on cancer and tumours (all types) from 2003-04 to 2006-07

	Gross expenditure on cancers and tumours—all types (£)
2003-04	3,385,750,000
2004-05	3,773,203,000
2005-06	4,302,656,000
2006-07	4,352,460,000

Source:
Department of Health Resource Accounts

A table showing the gross expenditure on cancer and tumours at sub-level for 2006-07, the first year that this data was collected at sub-category level for a number of cancer and tumour types, by each primary care trust (PCT), has been placed in the Library. This table shows expenditure on each PCT's own local population. The figures include primary prescribing but exclude general medical services and personal medical services expenditure and any prevention-related expenditure, such as screening.

Cardiovascular System: Medical Treatments

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of the use of polypills combining statins and other medicines on levels of circulatory disease-related (i) deaths and (ii) disability in people over the age of 55 years; [R] [274092]

(2) whether his Department plans to make available to people over the age of 55 years a polypill combining statins with other medicines to reduce the risk of circulatory diseases. [R] [274093]

Ann Keen: The Department has not commissioned and evaluated the effects of the use of polypills. However, there are at least three phase I or II studies under way:

At Imperial, Neil Poulter and Simone Thorn are already involved in a primary prevention trial of a Polypill (simvastatin 20 mg, hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg, lisinopril 10 mg, aspirin 75mg) cost ~ 1 dollar/month. The collaboration is being led by Anthony Rodgers in Auckland and includes centres in Brazil, United States of America, the Netherlands, India, Australia, United Kingdom (our centre here at St. Mary's-Imperial) and New Zealand. The pill has been made by Dr. Reddy's which is a big generic pharmaceutical company in India. The project is supported by the Wellcome Trust, the New Zealand medical research council and by other local organisations in the participating countries (for us the British Heart Foundation). The pilot phase has started-the first patient was evaluated here in London last week this is a 12-week pilot to test tolerability, safety and efficacy. Towards the end of next year they hope to proceed to the main morbidity and mortality trial that will include five-7,000 patients over three-five years. The project is quite well summarised in a recent *Guardian* article:

www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/sep/29/health.medicalresearch

Dr. Rodgers has been working with Dr. Reddy since about 2000 and the technical problems of Galenic formulation for a four component cardiovascular Polypill (the Red Heart Pill) have been solved. This Polypill has been approved by several regulatory authorities (including the UK and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) hence the primary prevention trial described above.

The University of Birmingham and Tehran University of Medical Sciences have completed a randomised controlled trial of a four component polypill in approximately 500 men aged 50 to 79 and women aged 55 to 79. This is a pilot study, with the aim of starting a fully powered clinical trial if this is successful. The Polypill consists of aspirin, a statin, an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, and a thiazide diuretic. The aim is essentially to look at compliance and determine the effects of treatment on blood pressure and lipid concentrations. Recruitment began in 2006 in Golestan (northeast Iran), and follow-up was completed earlier this year. They proposed to submit for publication soon. This is led by Tom Marshall, senior lecturer in public health University of Birmingham, on behalf of Fatemeh Malekzadeh Akram Pourshams, Mina Gharravi, Afshin Aslani, Alireza Nateghi, Mansoor Rastegarpanah, Masoud Khoshnia, G. Neil Thomas, Bagher Larijani, Reza Malekzadeh, K. K. Cheng.

Trial in Madrid, Spain—Secondary Prevention study—a three-component polypill, which comprises aspirin, a statin and an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor (which helps lower blood pressure), for secondary prevention in patients who have already suffered an acute myocardial infarction. The project is a private-public venture with Ferrer-Internacional, which is a Spanish pharmaceutical company based in Barcelona with experience in the development and launching of international projects. The new formulation will be available in 2010.

The Department has met the original Polypill authors on a number of occasions. The initial conclusions were that this type of approach would be more suitable in developing countries rather than in more sophisticated healthcare systems such as ours where tailored therapy is more the norm.

The Department is currently exploring how to reassess this issue in the light of fresh interest in the topic.

Care Homes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes have transferred from local authority operation to private ownership in each of the last three years. [273694]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Care Quality Commission that the information requested is not collected.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when all colposcopy patients will be able to choose between local and general anaesthesia for their treatments; [274401]

(2) which NHS hospitals have sufficient facilities to treat all colposcopy patients receiving *(a)* punch biopsy, *(b)* large-loop excision of the transformation zone and *(c)* other cervical treatments under local or general anaesthetic; and which such hospitals advertise both forms of anaesthesia in their patient literature. [274402]

Ann Keen: Data on the number and type of facilities within national health service hospitals providing colposcopy punch biopsy, large-loop excision of the transformation zone and other cervical treatments under local and general anaesthetic are not held centrally.

The choice between the most appropriate types of anaesthesia to use for such procedures is a clinical one and should be reached following discussion between the patient and the clinician, taking into account the patient's wishes and which is the most clinically appropriate type of anaesthesia for the individual patient.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274467]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not breakdown losses by the type of owner. While the BlackBerry is now the only supported personal digital assistant (PDA) the figures for PDAs, particularly in the early years include other makes like, Ipaq, Palm pilot, Psion etc.

PDA (including BlackBerry) and mobile phone losses April 2005 to March 2009

	Personal digital assistants	*Mobile phones*
2005-06	4	11
2006-07	5	18
2007-08	9	21
2008-09	22	18

Information contained on BlackBerry devices is protected by a strong password and can be remotely wiped once the loss has been reported. Mobile phones lost will contain contact details but are unlikely to contain more sensitive information.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274504]

Mr. Bradshaw: Costs of conference and banqueting services are not easily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on conference and banqueting services has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Diabetes: Health Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the national clinical director for diabetes. [274182]

Ann Keen: Dr. Sue Roberts was appointed as the first national clinical director for diabetes in 2003. In 2008, Dr. Rowan Hillson was appointed to succeed her. The post of national clinical director has proved highly effective in promoting the implementation of the National Service Framework for Diabetes. The national clinical directors have provided expert advice to the Government on hospital and community services for diabetes and leadership for everybody in the national health service engaged in delivering and improving the quality of diabetes services.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Pre-Budget Report of November 2008, Cm7484, what progress has been made in allocating the £100 million capital spending to upgrade GP surgeries advanced to 2009-10. [274189]

Mr. Bradshaw: The identification of suitable practices that require upgrading of accommodation to take additional general practitioner (GP) training places is under way. The initiative will involve close partnership working between strategic health authorities, their deanery GP directors and primary care trusts.

Health Professions: Locums

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the framework for the revalidation of health professionals will cover self-employed locums registered with the nine UK professional health regulators. [274346]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revalidation will apply to all health professionals registered with the UK health professions regulators. This will include any registered, self-employed locums.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what obligations there are on *(a)* employers and *(b)* patients to report concerns over the quality of services provided by self-employed locums working as (i) doctors, (ii) nurses, (iii) pharmacists, (iv) dentists and (v) other health professionals in the NHS; [274360]

(2) what guidance is provided to *(a)* employers and *(b)* patients on the reporting of concerns over the quality of services provided by self-employed locums working as (i) doctors, (ii) nurses, (iii) pharmacists, (iv) dentists and (v) other health professionals in the NHS. [274361]

Mr. Bradshaw: Health care organisations should investigate all concerns about the quality of care given by a health care professional working for them, whether in a locum or substantive capacity. On 26 February 2009, the Department published "Listening, responding, improving: a guide to better customer care", aimed at health and social care staff involved in receiving feedback and resolving concerns and complaints. This is generic guidance to help local complaints managers to work with colleagues to make their organisations better at listening, responding and learning from people's experiences of care. Additionally, each national health service health care provider must make information available to the public regarding arrangements for dealing with complaints. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency is responsible for providing advice to agencies on complaints procedures and for monitoring complaints about agency workers.

The Department's advice to employers "Handling Concerns about the Performance of Healthcare Professionals: Principles of Good Practice" was published in September 2006. This document sets out the principles for effective systems for handling performance concerns and outlines good practice for managing concerns about individuals. "High professional standards in the modern NHS"; a framework for the initial handling of concerns about doctors and dentists in the NHS, was issued in 2005 and applies to the NHS in England. It sets out the procedures to be followed when the quality of services provided are called into question. Similar guidance is also issued by individual regulatory bodies, which can be accessed from their websites. Copies of the publications referred to in the reply have been placed in the Library.

Under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, it is the duty of each NHS body to put and keep in place arrangements for the purpose of monitoring and improving the quality of health care provided by and for that body. The Government have taken additional powers through the Health and Social Care Act 2008 which will enable the introduction of new regulations intended to strengthening local clinical

governance arrangements. This includes the introduction of responsible officers, who will have statutory responsibility for ensuring that there are robust systems in place to monitor the conduct and performance of all doctors, including those working as locums. Health care organisations and designated bodies will also be subject to a new duty of co-operation, which will ensure that concerns about health care workers are shared and acted upon, to protect patients and ensure quality of care. The new regulations will be accompanied with guidance for employers and patients. A public consultation on the regulations will be undertaken later this year.

Health Professions: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made through the revalidation process in identifying the measures required to regulate *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* pharmacists, *(d)* dentists and *(e)* other health professionals. [274344]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following publication of the White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety: The Regulation of health professionals in the 21st Century" in 2007, seven working groups were established to develop profesional regulation reforms. Two groups worked on medical and non-medical revalidation. Both their reports have now been published and can be downloaded from the Department's website. Copies have been placed in the Library. The health care regulators are currently taking forward the proposals for revalidation.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_1386430

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091111

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account is taken of *(a)* patient safety, *(b)* public protection and *(c)* standards of public service delivery in the framework for the revalidation of health professionals. [274345]

Mr. Bradshaw: The process of revalidation for health professionals sits within the wider reforms to profesional regulation as set out in the White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety: The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century".

Revalidation is being built on the White Paper principles of public protection, patient safety and quality of care, with the recognition that revalidation is as much about sustaining, improving and assuring the professional standards of the overwhelming majority of health professionals as it is about identifying and addressing poor practice or bad behaviour.

Revalidation will provide a positive affirmation that practitioners meet the standards of competence, ethics, conduct, and are up to date and fit to practise.

Health Services: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps have been taken to improve medical services for *(a)* children, *(b)* older people, *(c)* families, *(d)* disabled people and *(e)* people with diabetes in Coventry. [274702]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1077W.

Health Services: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the standard of out-of-hours primary care provision in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire; and if he will make a statement. [275265]

Mr. Bradshaw: In September 2008 the independent regulator, the Healthcare Commission, published its review of Urgent and Emergency Care which rated the Peterborough primary care trust (PCT) area as 3 or "better performing" and the Cambridgeshire PCT area as 4 or "best performing", of which performance on out-of-hours services contributed around 25 per cent. to this score.

More widely, the review found that the national health service has made significant progress on performance against the out-of-hours National Quality Requirements for the delivery of out-of-hours services compared to a similar survey carried out by the National Audit Office in 2005. In addition, the overall results of the review were positive, with 60 per cent. of PCTs scored as "better" or "best performing" and 82 per cent. rated as at least "fair performing".

PCTs have a responsibility to ensure they provide, or secure provision of, a high quality, sustainable service for their local population. Where a provider is failing to meet the National Quality Requirements, PCTs, as commissioners of the service, and strategic health authorities must act to support out-of-hours providers to improve their performance. It is vital that if the local NHS has concerns about the quality of out-of-hours provision in its area, it takes urgent and robust action to improve services.

Health Services: Leyton

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been provided for *(a)* Whipps Cross Hospital, *(b)* primary care services and *(c)* other health services in Leyton and Wanstead constituency in each of the last five years; what infrastructural changes have been made to health care facilities in the constituency; and if he will make a statement. [273338]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available by constituency. Hospital and community health services, such as Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust, receive funding from primary care trusts (PCTs) largely through payment by results tariffs, primary care, the cost of drugs prescribed in primary care, and other services, such as public health, for their populations. The details are published in the trust's annual accounts, available from the trust itself.

Resource allocations to Redbridge PCT and Waltham Forest PCT 2004-05 to 2008-09

£ million

	Redbridge PCT	*Waltham Forest PCT*
2004-05	227.4	248.6

Resource allocations to Redbridge PCT and Waltham Forest PCT 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Redbridge PCT	*£ million Waltham Forest PCT*
2005-06	248.6	272.4
2006-07	292.5	320.8
2007-08	317.5	347.3
2008-09	334.8	366.3

Notes:
1. Allocations in 2004-05 to 2007-08 were made to the former 303 PCTs. The table shows estimates for the current configuration of 152 PCTs.
2. The scope of services covered by allocations has increased over time. In particular, before 2006-07 most primary medical services funding was not included in PCT allocations.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 510-11W, on hospital wards, if he will place in the Library a copy of the communications strategy produced in March 2009. [271169]

Ann Keen: The Department does not expect to place the communications strategy for the eliminating mixed sex accommodation programme of work in the Library. This is because the strategy (which is still evolving) plays a key role in the development and roll-out of policy relating to the elimination of mixed sex accommodation. Its placement in the Library would inhibit the free and frank discussions in which the Department needs to engage, in order that related policy options can be fully considered, and that its approach to the programme can be refined effectively.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 834-35W, on hospitals: infectious diseases, if he will make it his policy to conduct research into the effectiveness of patient-centred technologies in preventing healthcare associated infections. [273524]

Ann Keen: If patient-centred technologies are taken to mean products selected and provided by patients it is not our policy to conduct research into the effectiveness of patient-centred technologies as we are not aware of any evidence that these products offer advantages over materials supplied to patients by the national health service. Our strategy 'Clean Safe Care' draws together the measures required to control infections. Generally, normal soap and toiletries are adequate for patients' personal hygiene during their hospital stay. If decolonisation of a patient is necessary, hospitals will provide specialist soap and shampoo.

However, the Department is continually investigating the potential impact new and novel technologies may have in preventing healthcare associated infections (HCAIs), including the development of prototypes of innovative designs for existing patient-centred hospital furniture and equipment, aimed at influencing patient and staff behaviour to help prevent HCAIs. The Department has established the HCAI technology innovation programme that provides support to emerging and established technologies.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to decide whether a product intended for use by the NHS will be reviewed by the Rapid Review Panel. [275476]

Ann Keen: It is the remit of the Rapid Review Panel (RRP) to review new and novel equipment, materials, and other products or protocols that may support the national health service in improving hospital infection control and reducing hospital acquired infections.

Manufacturers may contact the RRP through the RRP website or may be directed to the panel through one of the Healthcare Associated Infection Technology Innovation Programme's product surgeries. Manufacturers or authorised distributors must submit their product for review to the RRP.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for Sheffield residents for admissions to hospital for treatment following GP referral *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available, by speciality. [274813]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. Referral to treatment data is only available from January 2007 onwards. The following table shows the median waiting times for completed patient pathways for admitted patients in the Sheffield Primary Care Trust area, from January 2007 to February 2009.

Treatment function	*January 2007*	*February 2009*
General surgery	19.0	7.3
Urology	17.8	8.8
Trauma and orthopaedics	31.7	10.9
Ear, nose and throat	32.0	9.0
Ophthalmology	23.7	7.3
Oral surgery	23.0	10.0
Neurosurgery	n/a	9.8
Plastic surgery	16.8	8.0
Cardiothoracic surgery	n/a	8.8
General medicine	n/a	n/a
Gastroenterology	7.8	1.9
Cardiology	16.0	8.8
Dermatology	11.5	10.0
Thoracic medicine	n/a	n/a
Neurology	n/a	n/a
Rheumatology	n/a	n/a
Geriatric medicine	n/a	n/a
Gynaecology	25.0	6.0
Other	16.4	6.6
Total	21.9	7.8

Note:
Where there were fewer than 20 completed pathways for the given treatment function, a median has not been calculated. These cells have been marked with a value of not applicable (n/a). Data for January 2007 are given on an unadjusted basis, whereas data for February are given on an adjusted basis.

Maternity Services: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of maternity services in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire. [275264]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts working with national health service trusts locally to decide how to configure maternity services.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made for the care and treatment of prisoners with *(a)* suspected and *(b)* diagnosed mental health disorders. [274624]

Phil Hope: The responsibility for prison mental health care transferred fully to primary care trusts in 2006. All prison mental health services are now mainstreamed within the national health service, where the reception screening tool can assess quickly all prisoners with health concerns, including mental illness, and, where appropriate, refer them to mental health in-reach teams.

NHS prison mental health services are provided through 102 in-reach teams, to which all prisons have access. Most mental health treatment and care is delivered in prison primary care settings, as is other NHS treatment (e.g. for prisoners with diabetes or heart disease) unless urgent treatment is needed, when prisoners can be transferred to secure NHS facilities outside of the prison service for treatment under the Mental Health Act.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will provide funding for *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* faith counselling services to support relatives of patients of Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust who have requested an independent review of case notes; and if he will make a statement. [274920]

Mr. Bradshaw: Counselling services will be offered to all those requesting an independent review of clinical records by the clinician leading the process.

Individuals will be signposted to the counselling services most appropriate to their needs. Where there is demand, these will include services provided by the voluntary sector and specialist faith counselling services.

All services will be provided by external counsellors at a location to suit the individual and will be funded by the trust.

A written ministerial statement on Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust was issued on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 63-64WS, in response to the reports of the independent reviews undertaken by Professor Sir George Alberti and Dr. David Colin-Thomé.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether appointments have been made to the position of *(a)* additional night matron and *(b)* professional development nurse at Stafford Hospital in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [274921]

Ann Keen: Appointments to individual national health service organisations are a local matter.

However, the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority has confirmed that the posts of night matron and professional development nurse at Stafford Hospital are being advertised in national nursing journals and on the NHS jobs website. The closing date for applications for the posts is 20 May 2009.

A written ministerial statement on Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust was issued on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 63-64WS, in response to the reports of the independent reviews undertaken by Professor Sir George Alberti and Dr. David Colin-Thomé.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many temporary nurses have been recruited to work at Stafford Hospital pending substantive appointments by Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [274922]

Mr. Bradshaw: Appointments to individual national health service organisations, whether temporary or substantive, are a local matter.

The West Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has advised that the number of temporary nurses being used at Stafford Hospital fluctuates in line with the requirements of the Trust. The SHA has confirmed that at the start of week commencing 11 March 2009, 74 per cent. of the 39 shift vacancies had been filled by agency nurses, with arrangements in place by the end of the week to bring this up to 92 per cent. The Trust is going to a wide range of agencies to ensure all remaining shifts are taken up and continues working to recruit to all vacant posts permanently.

A written ministerial statement on Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust was issued on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 63-64WS, in response to the reports of the independent reviews undertaken by Professor Sir George Alberti and Dr. David Colin-Thomé.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance his Department has issued to the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust on *(a)* the implementation of the recommendations Lord Darzi's report, High Quality Care for All and *(b)* the preparation of quality accounts; and if he will make a statement. [274923]

Mr. Bradshaw: The implementation of High Quality Care for All (HQCfA) requires action at national, regional and local levels. Trusts have and will continue to receive a range of guidance on implementation of the report's recommendations. The operating framework for the NHS in England 2009-10 sets out the national priorities for the national health service, including the wide range of enablers to support the NHS in delivering HQCfA.

Quality Accounts will be produced in 2010, subject to the successful passage of the current Health Bill. Quality reporting is being tested by NHS Foundation trusts and by providers in the East of England in 2009. Guidance on this has been issued jointly by Monitor, the Department, the Care Quality Commission and NHS East of England, and is available on Monitor's website.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 208W, on NHS treatment centres: private sector, by what mechanisms his Department assesses the comparative cost-effectiveness of independent sector treatment centres. [275272]

Mr. Bradshaw: The mechanism used to assess the comparative cost-effectiveness of independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) is a Value for Money analysis performed during the procurement of all Wave One and Phase Two ISTC contracts.

In evidence to the Health Select Committee in 2006, the Department stated that: Value for Money (VfM) in the ISTC programme comprises two key components: the cost of the programme compared to the "NHS equivalent cost"; and the value of the additional benefits brought by the IS programmes.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology his Department used to make the estimate that operations carried out by independent sector treatment centres cost on average 11 per cent. more than operations in NHS hospitals. [275273]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figure of 11.2 per cent., provided in evidence by the Department to the Health Select Committee in 2006, was a calculation of the average premium for operational Wave One schemes derived by comparing contracted independent sector treatment centre provider prices against an estimated national health service equivalent cost.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many completed cases have been brought against the NHS for incidents of negligence involving malnutrition and effects of hunger in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse. [273546]

Ann Keen: We cannot provide the information requested because the number of incidents by year may result in identification of a patient. However, the NHS Litigation Authority has provided the following table, which covers claims made against national health service trusts, NHS foundation trusts and primary care trusts across the period since 1997:

Number of settled claims where the claim was made between 1997 and 2009 and where one of the injuries is recorded as malnutrition as at 30 April 2009

	Settled—nil damages	*Settled with damages*
Number of claims	1	5
Damages paid	—	118,019
Defence costs paid	—	29,019
Claimant costs paid	—	101,200
Total paid	—	248,237

Note:
The damages paid for these claims may include damages for other injuries within the claim, and not just damages for malnutrition.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent additional financial support his Department has provided to Staffordshire local involvement network (LINk); whether his Department has plans for a national publicity campaign to promote awareness of LINks; and if he will make a statement. [274918]

Ann Keen: The Department has no current plans to allocate additional funding to Staffordshire local involvement network (LINk) although we are working to help the responsible local organisations to provide support for the LINk that is consistent with local authorities' duties in relation to LINks.

A written ministerial statement was issued on Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust on 30 April in response to the reports of the independent reviews undertaken by Professor Sir George Alberti and Dr. David Colin-Thomé. The statement sets out a commitment to give extra support to all LINks including a 'how to be heard' guide for the public, and a national publicity campaign to promote awareness of the role of LINks in influencing local decision making around national health service services.

Nurses: Foreign Workers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what protocol governs the employment of foreign nationals by strategic health authorities and primary care trusts. [275132]

Ann Keen: "The Code of Practice for the International recruitment of healthcare professionals" (2004) is available to view on the Department's website and a copy has been placed in the Library. NHS Employers are responsible for the implementation of the code of practice and managing the list of commercial agencies that adhere to the code.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions has he had with the Home Department on residency arrangements for foreign-born nurses. [275133]

Ann Keen: The Department continues to work closely with the UK Border Agency to ensure that a suitable route is available to allow international nurses to work in the United Kingdom when a suitable UK or European economic area candidate cannot be found.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidelines his Department has issued to *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts on their employment of foreign nationals as nurses. [275134]

Ann Keen: NHS Employers is responsible for promotion, advice and guidance on international recruitment.

Palliative Care: Children

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses working in the NHS are trained in the care of children on long-term ventilation. [272753]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information on the number of nurses trained in the care of children on long-term ventilation. The skills required within local services and the accompanying training is a matter for NHS organisations.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 741W, on apprentices, how many people undertaking apprenticeship training as part of the Government Skills National Apprenticeship Pathfinder Scheme in 2008-09 are *(a)* new employees hired as apprentices and *(b)* existing employees converting to apprenticeships. [263889]

Mr. Simon: The Government Skills National Apprenticeship Pathfinder scheme brought 16 Government Departments together to increase the numbers of apprenticeships in the civil service starting in 2008-09. The original target of 500 apprenticeship starts has been more than doubled, with 1,395 starts to the period ending 31 March 2009.

Civil servant numbers have declined since 2004, so the Pathfinder scheme was designed to primarily focus on offering high quality apprenticeships to existing members of staff. It is a standard route for apprentices to be in a job before they begin their apprenticeship, in both the public and private sector. For 2008-09 the number of apprentices entering the Pathfinder scheme at the point of recruitment has been 30.

Many of those undertaking apprenticeships work in operational delivery roles in the Department for Work and Pensions, the UK Border Agency, HM Revenue and Customs, the Driving Standards Agency and the Ministry of Justice.

Government Skills is now working with Departments to help embed apprenticeships in their recruitment processes.

Basic Skills

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Learning and Skills Council-funded adult learners aged over 16 years were eligible for inclusion in statistics used to measure progress against the Skills for Life Public Service Agreement target in *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06 and *(e)* 2006-07. [274010]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1015W.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many colleges in Greater London are awaiting a decision on an application for approval of schemes under the Building Colleges for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [275430]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the LSC acting chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Libraries.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [275176]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 13 May 2009]:* None. Contracts for facilities management at Kingsgate House in London are a matter for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which manages the building.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many actions under employment law were brought against the Department in each of the last three years, broken down by category of action; and how many were contested by the Department at an employment tribunal. [275624]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created in June 2007. There have been no cases brought against the Department since it was established.

Rotherham College of Arts and Technology

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills by what date he expects Rotherham College of Arts and Technology to have been allocated funding for its building programme. [275355]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for Further Education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Libraries.

Training: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training courses funded from the public purse are available to special advisers. [274062]

Mr. Simon: Special advisers are temporary civil servants appointed under Article 3 of the Civil Service Order in Council 1995, and are allowed the same training opportunities open to permanent civil servants, if there was a sufficient business case. As with all of their work, special advisers should not use official resources for party political activity. This would also include any training that they were allocated.

All training courses undertaken by the special advisers are linked to the Professional Skills for Government agenda and the Department's business and improvement objectives.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was received by the Exchequer in right to buy social housing receipts in each year since 1997; and what use was made of the receipts in the most recent year for which figures are available. [275660]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1118W.

Departmental Offices

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the address is of each site at which offices of her Department and its agencies are co-located with offices of the Homes and Communities Agency; and whether any further such co-location is planned. [273294]

Margaret Beckett: The following table identifies existing co-locations between the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Government Office Network (GON). The table also identifies where my Department and the HCA, in conjunction with GON colleagues, have identified the following buildings already within the CLG group estate where further co-locations would bring potential operational efficiencies.

Region	*Building*	*Comments*
Yorkshire and the Humber	Government office, 2nd floor, Lateral House, 8 City Walk, Leeds	Existing co-location with Government office
West Midlands	Government office, 5 St. Philips Place, Colmore Row, Birmingham	Co-location with Government office in progress
East Midlands	Government office, The Belgrave Centre, Talbot Street, Nottingham	Existing co-location with Government office
South West	Government office, 1st floor, Aztec Centre, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol	Co-location with Government office staff being considered
North West	Government office, 4th floor, 1 Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester	Co-location with Government office staff being considered

While not strictly a co-location, the East of England HCA are proposing to occupy surplus Government office accommodation, which again makes efficient use of the CLG group estate.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department and its agencies have received recent representations from representatives of the Homes and Communities Agency on the co-location of staff; [273295]

(2) whether recent discussions have taken place between her Department and its agencies and representatives of the Homes and Communities Agency on the availability of office space leased or owned by her Department. [273296]

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions officials in her Department have had with the Homes and Communities Agency on the future location of its offices. [273409]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) property team actively participate in the quarterly Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) Property Asset Management (PAM) Board meetings. The last PAM Board meeting took place on 21 April 2009. The Department's PAM policies can be accessed through the following link:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/assetmanagementplan

In addition to the PAM process, as a consequence of the creation of the new non-departmental public body, officials from my Department have been meeting with representatives of the HCA to discuss estate and property matters on a monthly basis. There is an ongoing dialogue between officials from my department and the HCA on estates matters.

Eco-towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of each full assessment from which her Department's eco-towns assessment summaries published in June 2008 were made. [273597]

Margaret Beckett: Given the nature of the eco-towns assessment summaries there is not a full assessment document of each location that I am able to place in the House Library. The assessment summaries were working documents intended to give feedback to promoters where schemes were not selected for shortlisting. They identified in outline from a range of source material at that time, the issues arising from the initial scrutiny of the eco-town proposals.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 471W, on eco-towns, which external advisers conducted the eco-towns Financial Viability Study; and at what cost to the public purse. [273690]

Margaret Beckett: The assessments undertaken in the Financial Viability Study of the Eco-towns Programme were carried out by a team led by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC). The team included: DTZ; Buro Happold; Davis Langdon: and DentonWildeSapte. Further details about the work carried out and our external advisors are set out in section 1.3 and Appendix A of the Study, which is available on my Department's website.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1165892.pdf

As set out in my answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 471W, we have spent £720,800 on stage one of this contract, and are in the process of completing stage two.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the proposed eco-towns could be established without public funding. [274816]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the "Financial Viability Study of the Eco-towns Programme" (March 2009), which is available on the Department's website and provides an initial high level assessment of whether an eco-town could be economically viable in the locations that we have shortlisted. This includes conclusions on the outline financial assessment and whether the proposal has the potential to generate sufficient value to cover the direct and indirect costs of delivering the scheme without recourse to public subsidy beyond existing public sector funding sources:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/financialviabilitystudy

Later in the year, following our consideration of the consultation responses and further assessment work, including the Financial Viability Study, I will announce which locations we are satisfied have the potential to be an eco-town. Individual schemes will then need to submit planning applications, which will be for local authorities to determine through the local planning process.

Emergency Calls

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps her Department plans to take to enable deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired people to make effective use of the 999/112 emergency numbers for the fire and rescue service; [275433]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to enable deaf and hard of hearing and speech-impaired people to communicate with the fire and rescue service using the short message text service. [275434]

Mr. Khan: The FiReControl Project is part of the Government's fire and rescue service modernisation agenda. Once implemented, it will provide the emergency call handling and mobilising function for the fire and rescue service in England.

Local arrangements exist for some fire services to receive emergency call via text message. Under the current planning assumptions, regional control centres will have access to existing local services until such a time as they are replaced by a national equivalent.

We are in the final stages of completing a comprehensive equality impact assessment which considers the implications for those who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. We aim to publish this assessment shortly.

Empty Homes Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Empty Homes Agency will receive from *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [274007]

Margaret Beckett: The Department is not providing any direct funding to the Empty Homes Agency in the period 2009-12.

Decisions on allocations for the next three years will be made as part of the HCA's Corporate Planning process.

Empty Property: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwellings there are in the South West region, broken down by local authority area. [275542]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of the number of empty dwellings in each local authority area in the South West region are shown in the following table.

	Number of empty dwellings
Bath and North East Somerset	1,881
Bournemouth	3,538
Bristol	5,217
Caradon	1,588
Carrick	1,604
Cheltenham	2,072
Christchurch	722
Cotswold	839
East Devon	1,908
East Dorset	890
Exeter	783
Forest of Dean	1,170
Gloucester	1,881
Isles of Scilly	6
Kennet	1,047
Kerrier	1,597
Mendip	1,354
Mid Devon	989
North Cornwall	1,746
North Devon	1,312
North Dorset	896
North Somerset	2,241
North Wiltshire	1,542
Penwith	1,084
Plymouth	2,967
Poole	2,098
Purbeck	412
Restormel	1,393
Salisbury	933
Sedgemoor	1,575
South Gloucestershire	2,289
South Hams	1,392
South Somerset	2,410
Stroud	1,342
Swindon	1,714
Taunton Deane	1,431
Teignbridge	1,948
Tewkesbury	1,137
Torbay	3,293
Torridge	1,033
West Devon	875
West Dorset	1,244
West Somerset	570
West Wiltshire	1,489
Weymouth and Portland	820
Total South West	70,272

The data are as 6 October 2008 and are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on their annual Council Taxbase (CTB) and CTB (Supplementary) returns.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons an energy performance certificate purchased by a residential landlord to show to rental tenants may not subsequently be incorporated into a home information pack should the landlord wish to market his property for sale. [274782]

Margaret Beckett: An energy performance certificate purchased by a residential landlord for rental purposes may be used in a home information pack for a property sale, provided it is less than three years old at the first point of marketing.

Fire Services: Medals

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the merits of providing funding for the award of fire service veterans badges; and if she will make a statement. [275600]

Mr. Khan: The Department has no plans to provide or fund a veterans badge for fire fighters. Some members of the National Fire services may be eligible for the Defence Medal. I understand that the British Fire Services Association designed and issued a lapel badge for veterans in the fire service. These are not funded by this Department.

First Time Buyers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 136-37W, on housing: sales, how many homes she expects to be sold under the First-Time Buyers Initiative in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [274892]

Mr. Iain Wright: The First Time Buyers' initiative is a demand led programme and therefore we have not made an estimate.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on the availability of local search information provided for home information packs of recent unitary local government restructuring. [273688]

Margaret Beckett: No such specific assessment has been made. However, we understand from information collected by the Department that the nine new unitary authorities are providing access to property search information following the implementation of the Local Authorities (England) (Charges for Property Searches) Regulations 2008.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to review the operation, cost and effectiveness of the home information pack scheme. [274905]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1989W.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what *(a)* studies and *(b)* reviews the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors commissioned, in which it engaged the services of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in each of the last five years; [272558]

(2) how much *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* its predecessors have paid to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in each of the last five years; how much she has allocated in each of the next three years; and what services have been received from CABE. [272511]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) were English Partnerships (EP), the investment arm of the Housing Corporation (HC), and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

The Academy, EP, HC and now the HCA have all worked with the Commission of Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). The detail of all engagement, including studies and reviews and money paid to CABE in the last five years is given as follows:

The HCA has paid £134,590.64 to the Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) for the following services since 1 December, 2008:

Delivery of the HCA Academy's 'Space Leaders' programme.

Work with growth locations to raise awareness about the value of design, and to help embed Building for Life standards within local planning policy documents.

CABE have a Memorandum of Understanding with ATLAS, the HCA's specialist advisory service.

English Partnerships paid CABE, £56,547.68 in 2004/05; £55,000 in 2005-06; £25,000 in 2006-07 and £25,000 in 2007-08 for the following services:

Together with the Housing Corporation, EP co-sponsored European International Design Competition, which CABE manage within the UK.

Work on the production of the Design Codes publication

Partnership working on initiatives such as Building for Life (BfL).

Sitting on the final assessment panel for Design for Manufacture, and the steering group for Urban Design Compendium.

Design reviews for a number of what were EP's direct and indirect projects such as Northstowe, Frickley and Corby station.

Production of the Allerton Bywater Design Code.

Contribution to 'Enquiry by Design' event for Whitefields borough council.

The Housing Corporation paid CABE[1], £40,000 in 2004-05; £80,[illegible] in 2005-06; £113,218.50 in 2006-07; £53,828.75 in 2[illegible]7-08 and £55,106.25 in 2008-09 for the following services:

[1] These payments include remunerations for both investment and regulatory work and therefore do not wholly reflect work now undertaken by the HCA.

2006-07

Provision of practical training to Housing Corporation and RSL staff throughout England.

Dissemination of best practice in the housing sector through the BfL Newsletter

Contribution to the work of the Housing Corporation Commission on Affordable Housing in the Thames Gateway.

2007-08

Setting up and running of a series of Focus group meetings with RSLs;

Dissemination of best practice through the BfL Newsletter

Contribution to the development of new Best Practice Guidance.

Europan 9 (see entry for EP above).

Project management of Affordable Housing Survey.

The Academy for Sustainable Communities paid CABE, £30,000 in 2006-07 and £15,000 in 2007-08 for the following services:

Delivery of 'Space Leaders' programme.

There is no overall allocation of funds for CABE within the HCA's planning. CABE's services may be used to provide design advice across the full range of the HCA's programmes over the next three years.

Homes and Communities Agency: Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1505W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, on which projects the Homes and Communities Agency spent £54,000 on branding, broken down by category of expenditure. [273452]

Margaret Beckett: £54,000 was spent on the development of the HCA brand, delivered through the Central Office of Information.

The expenditure can be broken down as follows:

	£000
Stationery design for HCA and Milton Keynes Partnership	23
Brand guidelines development and CD production	20
Regional factsheet template	3
HCA brand induction flyer for staff	3
Design and production of HCA cardboard folders	5
Total[1]	54

[1] All costs exclude VAT.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1505W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, on what categories of stationery items *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency spent £99,000 and *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority spent £17,000. [273453]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority's accounting systems cannot disaggregate expenditure by various categories of stationery item.

This information could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she expects the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process to *(a)* complete its work and *(b)* publish its report; [274856]

(2) on what dates phase *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4 of the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process was completed; what assessment she has made of the group's progress; and if she will make a statement; [274857]

(3) what phase of its work the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process has reached; and on what date she expects it to complete this phase. [274858]

Margaret Beckett: The work of the Working Group on Condition Information in Home Buying and Selling process is ongoing and is due to report in September 2009. A copy of the final report will be placed in the Library of the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process has met since its inception; where each meeting took place; which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* senior civil servants and *(c)* other parties were present at each such meeting; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting. [274859]

Margaret Beckett: The Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process has met twice. The meetings took place on 4 March 2009 and 23 March 2009 in Eland House. No Ministers attended the meetings which were chaired by the Deputy Director of Sustainable Buildings and Climate Change Directorate. This work is ongoing and publication of the minutes could restrict the contribution of working group members to those discussions and limit their input. We will not therefore be publishing the minutes. My reply to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 240-41W, dealt with the membership of the working group.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what housing revenue account pooling rate applies to the disposal of *(a)* dwellings and *(b)* land assets. [274842]

Mr. Iain Wright: After taking into account costs such as administration incidental to the disposal and improvements to the asset in the three years before the disposal, local authorities are required to pool 75 per cent. of receipts arising from the disposal of dwellings and 50 per cent. of receipts arising from the disposal of other housing assets. However, housing receipts arising from sales that are neither right to buy nor to any owner-occupier can be retained by local authorities provided they are used for affordable housing or regeneration projects. Furthermore, we have consulted on provisions which will effectively allow authorities to

retain all RTB receipts, provided they are used for the same purposes, if they arise from newly-built or newly-acquired dwellings.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at what rate local authorities are expected to include capital receipts relating to easements in their pooling amounts for their housing revenue accounts. [274843]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are required to pool receipts arising from the disposal of easements over land held in their housing revenue accounts, where such a disposal constitutes "the disposal of an interest in housing land" as defined in regulation 12(1)(a) of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/3146 (as amended)). Whether it is a disposal that falls within the regulations is a matter for the local authority to determine, subject to the scrutiny of its auditor. If the authority considers that the easement is an interest in housing land, then the receipt is poolable at a rate of 75 per cent. if the easement is over land that constitutes a dwelling. If the easement is over any other housing asset, then the receipt is poolable at 50 per cent.

In certain circumstances, it might be possible for an authority to retain all the receipt, provided the local authority uses the receipt for affordable housing or regeneration projects.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency spent on the Affordable Housing Survey in each of the last three years; and how much she has allocated for expenditure on future such surveys. [272557]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* Responsibility for the Affordable Housing Survey rests with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and as such, no funding was specifically allocated for the Affordable Housing Survey by my Department in the last three years, nor has any been specifically allocated for the next three.

The HCA, and previously the Housing Corporation, spent £25,000 in 2007-08 and £135,000 in 2008-09 on producing the Affordable Housing Survey. Nothing was spent on the survey in 2006-07. Decisions on allocations for the next three years will be made as apart of the agency's corporate planning process, which is currently under way.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on publicising each HomeBuy scheme in each of the last three years; and what promotional activities such expenditure funded. [272977]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 68W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties have been sold under the Homebuy scheme in each of the last five years. [273403]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1282W, to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather).

The following table shows the provisional figures of homes provided under each of the HomeBuy schemes in 2008-09 through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme.

	Provisional figure
Open Market HomeBuy	6,216
New Build HomeBuy	10,647
Social HomeBuy	99
Rent to HomeBuy	1,173

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System

Provisional figures indicate that there have been no homes completed under the HomeBuy Direct scheme in 2008-09.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing units have been *(a)* bought and *(b)* sold in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [274242]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of units acquired for social rent by local authorities and registered social landlords in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years for which data are available.

Units acquired for social rent

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Essex	40	40	0	10	40
Castle Point	0	0	0	0	0

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Total social rented housing is provided by new build completions, as well as acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 10 additional social rented homes were provided in Castle Point (through both new build and acquisitions), and 880 additional social rented homes were provided in Essex (new build and acquisitions).

The following table shows the number of social housing units sold by local authorities and registered social landlords in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years.

Units sold

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Essex	1,040	700	420	500	510
Castle Point	20	10	10	10	10

Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) from Registered Social Landlords to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA), Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and PIB returns to CLG from local authorities. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of shared ownership properties vacant at the latest date for which figures are available. [274710]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of unsold housing association shared ownership properties for the period of January to March 2009 was 8,742. This is down 16 per cent. from the previous quarter where the figure was 10,359. As with all home purchases, transactions can take between three to six months to complete. The total number of homes unsold for more than six months dropped from 4,629 last quarter to 3,771, down 19 per cent.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average income of first-time buyers taking part in the First-Time Buyers initiative has been in each year since the scheme's inception. [272103]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average household income of purchasers through the First Time Buyers initiative for each year since the scheme's inception.

	Average household income (£)
2006	33,000
2007	29,213
2008	26,838
2009[1]	25,450

[1] Figures for 2009 only available until end of February 2009.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes with a sustainability code rating of *(a)* one star, *(b)* two stars, *(c)* three stars, *(d)* four stars, *(e)* five stars and *(f)* six stars have been completed in each of the last three years. [272219]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 11-12MC.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [274547]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors have not specifically recorded expenditure incurred in maintaining ongoing compliance with health and safety at work legislation.

To disaggregate such costs would incur a disproportionate cost.

Land Use: Public Sector

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of minutes of each meeting of the surplus public sector land strategy group in the last 12 months. [272431]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Surplus Public Sector Land Strategy Group was a short-life group established to provide strategic guidance on the surplus public sector land programme. The Strategy Group met four times and considered commercially sensitive material and advised on the formulation and development of Government policy. On that basis we do not think it appropriate to place the minutes in the Library.

Local Development Frameworks

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on local development schemes established by each local planning authority. [274757]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local Development Schemes are individual local planning authority timetables for producing core strategy and other development plan documents for its area, agreed with the Secretary of State through the Regional Government Office. The Department holds a record of Local Development Scheme timetables on a database and they are published on the Planning Portal website:

http://ldsdatabase.planningportal.gov.uk/ldfsearch.aspx

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1293W, on mortgages: Government assistance, what criteria her Department uses to define an ordinary hard-working household. [273596]

Margaret Beckett: The eligibility criteria for Homeowners Mortgage Support are designed to ensure that this scheme helps hard-working households who are having difficulties with their mortgage repayments to avoid the threat of repossession.

The eligibility criteria include households demonstrating that they have had a temporary loss of income from employment or self-employment of a scale which affects the household's ability to make full mortgage payments, but which is not expected to be a permanent loss of income. Households must also have no savings in excess of £16,000. Full eligibility criteria are available at

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/Keepingyourhomeevictionsandhomelessness/Mortgagesandrepossessions/DG_177639

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing associations are yet to receive Government funding in respect of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [273700]

Margaret Beckett: The Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational since 1 January, supported by a network of 23 registered social landlord (RSL) mortgage rescue providers covering every local authority area in England. Further RSLs who wish to offer the scheme are being encouraged to do so in partnership with the lead provider for the area.

Under the scheme's financial framework there is absolute flexibility to direct the available resources to those areas with the greatest demand. This will be kept under review. Funding is drawn down once a rescue is complete and the RSL provider has submitted a grant claim to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many eligible applications have been received under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [274181]

Margaret Beckett: The scheme opened with the first group of lenders on 21 April. Borrowers apply to the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme through their lender. Before being admitted to the scheme, they need to take money advice. We have worked with the participating lenders to produce a proportionate reporting system. This will provide statistics which will be published on a regular basis.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 139W, on mortgages: government assistance (1) what the terms of a typical loan offered under the Repossession and Eviction Prevention Fund will be; and by what date she expects the first household to be in receipt of such a loan; [274893]

(2) what steps she is taking to publicise the Repossession and Eviction Prevention Fund; and if she will make a statement; [274894]

(3) by what date she expects local authorities to be able to apply for funding under the Repossession and Eviction Prevention Fund. [274895]

Margaret Beckett: The Department will write shortly to all local authorities setting out further details about use of the Repossession and Eviction Prevention Fund. The funding, which is administered through the Homelessness Revenue Grant Programme, under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, will be allocated to local authorities in June so that it is available to provide help to households as quickly as possible. Our advice to local authorities will set out that loans from the fund should not exceed a value of £5,000 per household and interest will not be charged. Information about the fund will be added to the range of support available to households and publicised for example through the DirectGov website.

Planning: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department plans to provide for work to be carried out by Building Design Partnership Ltd on a master plan for Canvey Island town centre; and if she will make a statement. [273522]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency, funded by my Department, has approved a grant of £100,000 to Castle Point borough council over a two year period for a master planning project for Canvey Town Centre. Building Design Partnership Ltd has won a tender to carry out the work on their behalf.

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 143W, on rented housing: what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authority homes built since the data in Table 1 was compiled; and if she will make a statement. [274890]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 724W.

Repossession Orders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of properties being purchased with a buy-to-let mortgage that have been repossessed in each of the last 10 quarters. [274711]

Margaret Beckett: The number of buy-to-let mortgage repossessions in the UK are published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML). The following table shows the number of buy-to-let mortgage repossessions in each of the last 10 quarters as published by the CML.

Number of buy-to-let mortgage repossessions, UK

		Number
2006	Q3	200
	Q4	400
2007	Q1	400
	Q2	500
	Q3	500
	Q4	600
2008	Q1	900
	Q2	900
	Q3	1,000
	Q4	1,300

Source:
Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Shared Ownership Schemes: Mortgages

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of high street mortgage lenders which do not offer mortgage terms to buyers purchasing under shared ownership schemes. [275563]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are 17 lenders currently willing to offer mortgages under shared ownership schemes, an increase from 14 lenders in February 2009. The Government continue to work with the Council of Mortgage Lenders and individual lenders to encourage lender participation.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the market value of homes owned by registered social landlords in each of the last three years. [270627]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1113W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties previously available for social rent from registered social landlords were sold in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [273646]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing the number of registered social landlord (RSL) properties sold in each local authority area in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08 has been placed in the House Library.

These figures are taken from returns made by RSLs through the regulatory and statistical returns (RSR) to the Tenant Services Authority. The figures show RSL sales under the following schemes; right to buy, preserved right to buy, right to acquire, voluntary purchase grant, social homebuy and other shared equity homebuy schemes. It also includes other shared ownership sales (such as new build and open market homebuy), including sales of initial shares. Sales to other RSLs, and sales to the private sector for non-social housing use, cannot be broken down to LA level, but are included in the England total.

These figures are not available from RSR returns before 2001-02.

Tenant Services Authority: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the administration costs of the *(a)* Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency in each of the next three years; and what percentage of each organisation's estimated (i) income and (ii) grant in aid these sums represent in each such year. [274863]

Margaret Beckett: Decisions on allocations for the next three years will be made as part of the corporate planning process for both organisations.

Tenant Services Authority: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Tenants Services Authority has commissioned any *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations companies since its creation to date; and at what cost to the public purse. [274740]

Margaret Beckett: The TSA have commissioned the following to date:

Public Affairs consultancy—APCO: £1,200

Public Relations—Engage: £33,000.

Unitary Councils: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to publish details of the remuneration and redundancy packages for senior local authority staff arising from the recent unitary restructuring. [273211]

John Healey: Disclosure in each council's statement of accounts of the number of its staff whose remuneration (i.e. all amounts paid to or receivable by an employee) is in the band £50,000-£59,999, and the number in each subsequent £10,000 band, is currently required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

In the recent local government reorganisation, the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Further Transitional and Supplementary Provision and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2009 require the 2008-09 accounts for those abolished councils to be finalised, and the annual statement of accounts to be published, by the relevant new unitary council. These accounts and the accompanying documentation, as for that of all local authorities, must be open for inspection by local electors for the area for 20 working days as part of the audit procedures, and the statement of accounts for the year must be published by the end of September.

The Department is currently consulting on proposals to amend the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 to improve transparency of reporting of remuneration of senior officers in public bodies. Further information is available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/consultations/

Zero Carbon Hub

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the business plan for the Zero Carbon Hub. [270117]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Zero Carbon Hub's final business plan for 2008-09 to 2009-10 has been made available on the zero carbon hub's website:

www.zerocarbonhub.org

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Sponsorship

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academy sponsors have withdrawn from the academy process *(a)* before and *(b)* after signing an expression of interest. [275173]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 May 2009]:* A sponsor's legal commitment to an academy project (as a member of the academy trust) occurs when a funding agreement is signed. Since the first academies opened in 2002, one lead sponsor (Chelsfield) and two co-sponsors (Intercity and Toc H) have withdrawn after signing funding agreements, but before the academies opened.

Records of academy sponsors that have withdrawn before and after signing an expression of interest, but before signing a legally binding funding agreement, are kept in individual project records and are not held centrally.

Children and Young People's Services Ministerial Group

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanism exists for non-ministerial representation on the ministerial sub-group of the Cabinet sub-committee on children, young people and families in place of Ministers. [275704]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A sub-set of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People, chaired by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and including the Secretaries of State from the Home Office, the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice will meet with Sir Roger Singleton, Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children, quarterly. Officials and experts may also be invited to attend this group to provide expert advice from time to time.

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of registered child minders were *(a)* male and *(b)* female in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [274288]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information about the numbers and proportions of male and female staff in the child care and early years providers workforce. Table 1 shows the numbers of childminders that were male and female in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Data on numbers of childminders of each sex are not available prior to 2005, although the data on the proportions are available for 2003. Table 2 shows the proportions of childminders that were male and female in 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007. No data are available on proportions or numbers prior to 2003.

Table 1: Numbers of male and female childminders in the child care and early years providers workforce

	Male	*Female*
2005	1,900	56,700
2006	1,200	56,700
2007	600	59,200

Table 2: Proportions of male and female childminders in the child care and early years providers workforce

	Percentage	
	Male	*Female*
2003	1	99
2005	2	98
2006	2	98
2007	1	99

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether staff of his Department made any representations in respect of Lord Laming's most recent report on safeguarding prior to its publication; and if he will make a statement. [275705]

Beverley Hughes: As is common practice, officials in this Department were kept informed about the development of Lord Laming's independent report and were given the opportunity to comment at key stages. We ensured that Lord Laming received the resources and support that he needed to complete his report which was independent and is based on the evidence provided to him from a wide range of sources.

Departmental ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many and what proportion of computers in his Department malware was detected in 2008. [275421]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: During 2008, 28,890 computer viruses were detected and blocked from a total of 4,600 DCSF computers. It is not possible to specify the number of computers affected, as the same computer could have been infected several times during the same year.

Integrated Children's System

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what timetable he has set for completion of the feasibility study on a revised Integrated Children's System. [274254]

Beverley Hughes: Lord Laming has recommended that the Department should complete such a study within six months of his progress report in March, and the Government have accepted this recommendation. In addition, the Social Work Task Force has already made a series of recommendations which, it believes, will improve frontline workers' experience of ICS. The Government have accepted the Task Force's advice in this area, and work to put this into effect will start without delay.

The Task Force will report fully to the Government in October and we are committed to bringing forward a comprehensive programme of reform for the profession at that time.

Schools: ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of computers in *(a)* local authority children's services departments, *(b)* Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service and *(c)* schools were found to be infected with malware in 2008. [275420]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number or proportion of computers infected with malware is not collected centrally from either local authority children's services or from schools. However many schools do employ a managed service for their ICT support and those organisations will normally maintain this information and report to schools.

The Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS) computer network is supported by an outsourced IT service provider who do not routinely capture this information. However, the CAFCASS network and equipment is protected by anti-virus software and firewalls that prevent unauthorised access, so the potential for a malware infection is low. CAFCASS have no record of any infection by malware in 2008.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions he and his predecessors have intervened in a school which is in special measures in each of the last five years; and what the name of each such school was. [275172]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 May2009]:* The Secretary of State has reserve intervention powers for schools in special measures which are currently contained in sections 67-69 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. These powers have only been used once in the last five years, when the Secretary of State appointed an Interim Executive Board at Ettingshall Primary School in Wolverhampton in May 2007.

Secondary Education: Teachers

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of classes in *(a)* academy and *(b)* non-academy secondary schools were taken by unqualified teachers without assistance in academic year (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08; [275681]

(2) what percentage of those teaching classes unassisted in *(a)* academy and *(b)* non-academy state secondary schools were qualified school teachers in academic year (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [275682]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Tim Byles

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the duties are of Mr. Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools. [275088]

Jim Knight: As Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, Tim Byles is responsible for delivering the Building Schools for the Future programme and the procurement of Academy schools, within the policy framework set by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. He is responsible for the day to day management of Partnerships for Schools' executive functions as set out in a number of formal documents, including a remit letter issued by the Department. The Chief Executive is also Partnerships for Schools' Accounting Officer and his responsibilities in that context are set out in the Treasury memorandum "The Responsibilities of a Non Department Public Body (NDPB) Accounting Officer".

Youth Inclusion Programme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009 to question 256435, what high scores for both deprivation and crime were used to determine which estates were selected. [259305]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth Justice Board established the first 70 youth inclusion programmes in 2000. In England, the areas were identified using a combination of the (then) Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions' "Index of Local Deprivation" and youth offending teams' own data and knowledge of local levels of crime. Youth offending teams will have also considered other factors, such as local levels of school attendance or unemployment. The Welsh Assembly Government selected the areas in Wales. Since 2005, youth offending teams have determined the areas themselves using the Youth Justice Board's guidance which advises them to consider a range of crime, economic and population data. Youth offending teams have the flexibility to change the areas over time in order to reflect changing local circumstances.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Community Learning

5. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on community learning opportunities for women during the recession. [275280]

Maria Eagle: We work closely with colleagues on issues affecting women during the recession, including training and skills. Community-based learning opportunities are important at any time but during an economic downturn they are essential. Our £20 million Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Fund continues to support opportunities for local adults to develop their skills for employment. We also recently announced a support package for Community Learning Champions, who will act as a vital link between learners and providers.

Minority Representation

6. **John Barrett:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the representation of minorities in Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [275281]

Maria Eagle: We need Parliament to reflect all sections of society. Ethnic minorities and disabled people are grossly under-represented in Parliament. There are 15 ethnic minority MPs when proportionally there should be around 60. The imbalance is greater for ethnic minority women. There are only two. Action taken to redress this under-representation includes:

Using the Equality Bill to extend the time in which political parties can use women-only shortlists to 2030

Establishing a Speaker's Conference to consider the under representation of women, ethnic minorities and disabled people in the House of Commons.

Trafficked Women

7. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on levels of funding for non-governmental organisations working to assist trafficked women who have been raped and who are unable to obtain assistance from other sources. [275282]

Maria Eagle: The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, of which I am a member, regularly discusses this subject.

As part of the UK's commitment to implementing the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Government have awarded £3.7 million over the next two financial years to the POPPY Project. This grant will be used for national support services for victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. The Government have also implemented a National Referral Mechanism to help facilitate victims of trafficking into the appropriate support and protection.

Equal Pay

8. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the trade union movement on equal pay. [275283]

Maria Eagle: My colleagues and I have met many trade union representatives in the run up to launching of the Equality Bill. Our discussions have often included equal pay issues. The Government and the trade unions have a shared interest in promoting equality of pay between women and men.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 15 May 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advantage West Midlands: Expenditure

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much Advantage West Midlands has disbursed in *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital allocations in each financial year since 1998-99. [272063]

Mr. McFadden: The revenue and capital expenditure of Advantage West Midlands since 1998-99 has been as follows:

	Revenue	*£ million Capital*
1998-99[1]	0.4	
1999-2000	57	47
2000-01	62	51
2001-02	78	62
2002-03	100	104
2003-04	117	123
2004-05	115	104
2005-06	146	142
2006-07	152	130
2007-08	141	150
2008-09[2]	133	162

[1] No split available, mainly administrative costs.
[2] Latest estimate.

Community Investment Fund

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what Community Investment Fund projects each regional development agency carried out in each year since 2000. [265272]

Mr. McFadden: Tables showing the Community Investment Fund projects carried out by the RDAs since 2000 will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what categories of personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement; [274174]

(2) what databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if he will make a statement. [274175]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not hold any protected personal information about members of the public in any of its databases.

I have asked the Chief Executives of Companies House and the Insolvency Service to respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 15 May 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service on what categories of his personal information about members of the public are contained on each relevant database managed by his Department and its agencies; on what date each category of information began to be collected; and if he will make a statement.

The requested details for the databases managed by the Insolvency Service Agency are contained in the following table:

Database	*Categories of Personal Information held*	*Date the data began to be collected*
LOIS—(Official Receiver's Case Management System)	Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth, national insurance number, for individual insolvents	April 1993 for all categories of data
	Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth, national insurance number, for directors of insolvent companies	
	Name and address details for creditors	
LOLA—(Financial administration system for Official Receiver's cases)	Full name for individual insolvents	April 1996 for all categories of data
	Name, address and (in some cases) bank account details for creditors	
BANCS (Financial administration system for Insolvency Practitioner cases)	Full name for individual insolvents	October 1994 for all categories of data
	Name, address and (in some cases) bank account details for creditors	
Central Index—(Consolidated summary database for Official Receiver and Insolvency Practitioner cases)	Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth, national insurance number for individual insolvents	April 1994 for all categories of data
	Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth, national insurance number, for directors of insolvent companies	

Database	Categories of Personal Information held	Date the data began to be collected
	Name, address and contact details for Insolvency Practitioners	
DRO—(Debt Relief Order database)	Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth, national insurance number for individual insolvents	April 1994 for all categories of data
	Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth, national insurance number, for directors of insolvent companies	
	Name, address and contact details for Insolvency Practitioners	
I-Solv—(Database of applicants for online bankruptcy)	Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth, national insurance number, for individual insolvents	April 2005 for all categories of data
	Name, address and claim details for creditors	
	Name, address and details of amounts owing for debtors	
CHIRPS—(Redundancy Payments Service case management system)	Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth, national insurance number, bank account details for applicants for statutory redundancy payments	November 1997 for all categories of data
EMS—(Investigations and enforcement case management system)	Name, address, and date of birth for individuals who are the subject of investigation or enforcement activities	April 2005 for all categories of data
IBIS—(Case management system of Companies Investigation Branch)	Name, address, and contact details of complainants	January 2002 for all categories of data
	Name, address, date and place of birth of disqualified directors	
e-IRR Online, searchable database of current individual insolvency orders)	Name, address, occupation, date of birth for individuals subject to insolvency orders	April 2004
	Name, address, occupation, date of birth, date and duration of restriction, for individuals subject to a Bankruptcy Restrictions Order	June 2004
Disqualified Directors Database	Name, address, date of birth, date and duration of order, for directors subject to a disqualification order	September 2005
Finance Section Database	Name, address and bank account details for individual payees in relation to redundancy payment claims	April 2006
	Name, address and bank details of job applicants (successful and unsuccessful) who were paid expenses for job interviews and tests	April 2004

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 15 May 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service on what databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on individual members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if he will make a statement.

The requested details for the databases managed by the Insolvency Service Agency are contained in the following table:

Database	Date the database became operational
LOIS—(Official Receiver's Case Management System)	April 1993
LOLA—(Financial administration system for Official Receiver's cases)	April 1996
BANCS—(Financial administration system for Insolvency Practitioner cases)	October 1994
Central Index—(Consolidated summary database for Official Receiver and Insolvency Practitioner cases)	April 1994
DRO—(Debt Relief Order database)	April 2009
I-Solv—(Database of online applicants for bankruptcy)	April 2005
CHIRPS—(Redundancy Payments Service case management system)	November 1997
EMS—(Investigations and enforcement case management system)	April 2005
IBIS—(Case management system of Companies Investigation Branch)	January 2002
e-IRR (Online, searchable database of current individual insolvency orders)	April 2004
Database of Disqualified Directors	September 2005
Finance Section Database	April 2004

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 15 May 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 May 2009, UIN 274174, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House is required by legislation to hold the following personal information about members of the public:

Names, addresses and dates of birth of company directors.

Names and addresses of company secretaries.

Names and addresses of company shareholders.

This information has been collected under various Companies Acts since 1844 but has only been held on an electronic database since 1986.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 15 May 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 May 2009, UIN 274175, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The current register of companies database (known as CHIPS) became operational on 25 February 2008, superseding the previous version of the database (known as STEM), which had been operational since 1986. There is also an image database, holding electronic images of documents filed, which became operational in 1995. All these databases hold personal information, most of which is publicly available.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many questions tabled to his Department for ordinary written answer in Session 2007-08 were *(a)* answered (i) in up to three days, (ii) in between four days and two weeks, (iii) in between two weeks and one month, (iv) in between one month and two months and (v) two months or more after tabling and (b) were not answered. [268661]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not available in a format to reply without incurring disproportionate cost. This applies equally to researching the House "Parliamentary Information Management System".

However, in the three-month period from December 2008 to February 2009, the Department received a total of 566 ordinary written parliamentary questions of which 225 were answered within five sitting days. Of the 566, a total of 20 remain to be answered.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many questions tabled to his Department for named day written answer in Session 2007-08 *(a)* received a substantive answer (i) on the day named and (ii) (A) in up to three days, (B) in between four days and two weeks, (C) in between two weeks and one month, (D) in between one and two months and (E) more than two months after the day named and (b) were not answered. [268662]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not available in a format to reply without incurring disproportionate cost. This applies equally to researching the House "Parliamentary Information Management System".

However, in the three-month period from December 2008 to February 2009, the Department received a total of 188 named day parliamentary questions (including first order questions which could not be answered in the Chamber). Of the 188, a total of 52 were answered on the date specified. A total of five remain to be answered.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on its payment of wage contributions to workers in the automotive industry on short-time working who are undertaking retraining in their own time. [275131]

Ian Pearson: The Government fully appreciate the difficulties that the automotive industry is experiencing during the current economic downturn.

While we are supporting a range of automotive support initiatives, we do not believe that introducing a general wage subsidy for all employers is a feasible, cost effective and sustainable option for the UK. Past experience in the UK when running a wage subsidy programme in the 1970s was that wage subsidies acted to create distortions and perverse incentives for other sectors and companies to bargain for subsidies.

We believe that the future success of British industry will be based on a highly skilled workforce, and where production is being reduced we are helping business train their workforces to ensure they emerge from the economic downturn in the best possible shape to compete in the future.

Automotive companies can access funding for training from Government and the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies. Following demand from the automotive industry for this support, funding under the "Train To Gain" scheme for the sector has been increased substantially up to £100 million from the original budget of £65 million.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department takes to monitor the effectiveness of spending by regional development agencies on the development of the tourism industry. [270403]

Mr. McFadden: BERR and other Government Departments are involved in development of each RDA's Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and in approving each region's Corporate Plan. The plans are reviewed to ensure that the RDAs deliver against ministerial priorities and priorities identified in the RES.

The RDAs took on strategic responsibility for tourism development in the regions in 2003, and have developed tourism strategies and delivery structures in line with their RES. DCMS works with the RDAs in advancing and assessing progress on key strategic objectives through:

the 2012 Ministerial Advisory Group, which guides the delivery of the national tourism strategy ("Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond");

the Ministerial Monitoring and Implementation Group, which guides the delivery of the national skills strategy;

the Welcome to Britain Group, which is working to improve the overall visitor welcome and experience;

Partners for England, which focuses on improved resource and policy co-ordination at national, regional and local levels;

the RDA Tourism Leads group, which provides a forum for cross-regional co-operation, collaboration and leadership.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* infant, *(b)* primary and *(c)* secondary class sizes in the 20 local authority areas of (i) highest and (ii) lowest deprivation in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [262821]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Average class sizes[1] as at January 2008 in England, by local authority

	Key stage[1,2]	*Maintained primary[3]*	*State-funded secondary[3,4]*
England	25.7	26.2	20.9
20 Local authority areas with the highest level of deprivation[5]			
Liverpool	24.3	24.6	19.2
Hackney	26.5	25.8	20.9
Tower Hamlets	27.7	26.3	21.1
Manchester	26.1	26.6	21.3
Knowsley	24.8	25.7	20.5
Newham	27.1	26.8	23.1
Islington	25.1	25.5	22.1
Middlesbrough	22.5	23.5	19.3
Birmingham	27.1	26.8	20.5
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	25.2	25.7	22.0
Blackpool	27.1	27.8	22.0
Nottingham	24.7	25.7	19.4
Sandwell	26.5	26.7	20.6
Salford	25.0	26.0	20.9
Stoke-on-Trent	26.0	26.5	21.4
Blackburn with Darwen	26.4	27.1	21.4
Haringey	27.8	27.5	19.4
Lambeth	27.3	25.9	20.4
Leicester	24.8	24.9	22.5
Barking and Dagenham	27.0	26.9	19.9
20 Local Authority Areas with the lowest level of deprivation[5]			
West Sussex	26.1	26.6	21.2
Kingston upon Thames	28.2	27.1	20.4
City of London	30.0	24.8	n/a
Bedfordshire	24.3	24.5	21.4
Hertfordshire	26.6	26.7	20.0
Cambridgeshire	26.3	27.0	22.0
Bath and North East Somerset	26.0	26.0	20.2
Oxfordshire	24.6	25.6	20.5
Leicestershire	25.1	25.9	22.1
Hampshire	26.3	27.0	22.1
Wiltshire	24.9	25.7	20.7
South Gloucestershire	25.4	26.5	20.1
Richmond upon Thames	28.0	26.5	23.5
Buckinghamshire	25.1	25.6	20.6
Bracknell Forest	26.8	26.8	21.2
Windsor and Maidenhead	24.0	25.5	20.0
West Berkshire	25.0	25.2	19.1
Surrey	26.8	27.0	21.7
Rutland	25.3	25.2	23.8
Wokingham	24.8	26.3	19.7

n/a=. Not Applicable
[1] Classes taught by 1 teacher.
[2] Includes reception classes.
[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[4] Includes Academies and City Technology Colleges.
[5] Ranked according to the indices of multiple deprivation.
Source:
School Census

Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department plans to allocate to each local authority for discharging responsibilities which were formerly those of the Learning and Skills Council in each of the next five years. [275072]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 150-54W. This set out the number of posts we expect to transfer to each local authority from the Learning and Skills Council, subject to the passage of the Apprenticeships, Learning and Skills Bill. We are currently working with the LSC to determine how much funding will transfer to local authorities with each post from April 2010.

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department of examination fees for each type of examination in maintained schools was in each of the last 10 years. [274582]

Jim Knight: The Department began collecting information in sufficient detail to answer this question in 2002-03. No comparable data are available for previous years. The information in the table covers the combined costs of all relevant examination entry fees, including GCSEs, A/AS-levels and GNVQs, and any accreditation costs related to pupils. We do not collect separate data on each type of exam.

Financial year	*Examination fees (E21)[1] (£)[2]*
2002-03	155,611,000
2003-04	173,843,000
2004-05	198,227,000
2005-06	220,056,000
2006-07	240,861,000
2007-08[3]	265,305,000

[1] Includes expenditure by local authority maintained schools in England on the costs of examination entry fees, and costs of accreditation related to pupils (the payments centres make to awarding bodies to register with them to take their qualification). This includes GCSEs, A/AS-levels and GNVQs and covers administrative costs e.g. external marking; it excludes the cost of exam resources, such as the test papers themselves.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest £000.
[3] 2007-08 data remain provisional and subject to change.
Source:
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=58
(Budget Data Archive)

Education: Finance

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the merits of transferring the

multi-professional education and training budget from that Department to the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [275654]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is the responsibility of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. As such it would be for this Department to discuss the transfer of this budget from the Department of Health. However, there have been no discussions on this subject in recent years.

Foster Care

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many foster parents have fostered *(a)* trafficked children, *(b)* unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and *(c)* children from other EU countries in each of the last three years. [275847]

Beverley Hughes: Information about the numbers of foster carers who have fostered children in the three categories listed is not collected centrally.

GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals sat *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* further mathematics A-level in each of the last five years. [268490]

Jim Knight: The answer is provided in the following table:

Pupils eligible for free school meals who sat mathematics and further mathematics at A-level for the period 2004-08

	Number		*Percentage*	
	Maths	*F-Maths*	*Maths*	*F-Maths*
2004	554	31	13.8	0.8
2005	567	31	13.2	0.7
2006	591	42	14.3	1.0
2007	686	56	16.4	1.3
2008	705	53	17.1	1.3

Notes: 1. The figures are based on pupils aged 16 to 18 years.
2. Percentages are based on the cohort of pupils eligible for free school meals who sat at least one GCE A-level. *Source:* National Pupil Database.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in maintained schools who gained five or more GCSEs at grade A or A* in 2006 who gained three or more A-levels at Grade A in 2008. [260540]

Jim Knight: The most readily available analysis is given in the following table:

	Number
Number of pupils who achieved 3 A grades at A-level in 2008 and	
achieved 5 or more A* or A GCSE grades	13,660
did not achieve 5 or more A* or A GCSE grades	857
Prior attainment not available	147
Total	14,664

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in maintained schools (including academies and CTCs) in England. Figures relate to achievements in GCE/VCE/Applied A-level/Double Awards and full and vocational GCSEs only.
2. Not all of these pupils will have taken their GCSE examinations in 2006 or in maintained schools. Pupils who took their GCSE examinations in 2006 and achieved at least three As in their A-levels in a year other than 2008 are not included.
Source:
National Pupil Database

GCSE: Young Offender Institutions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1387W, on the General Certificate of Secondary Education: young offender institutions, how many young people housed in young offender institutions achieved *(a)* one A* to G grade, *(b)* five A* to G grades, *(c)* five A* to C grades and *(d)* five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics at GCSE in each year for which the Learning and Skills Council holds figures. [273426]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The individualised learning record (ILR) data LSC collected for 2006/07 do not allow us to answer the specific questions on the range of grades achieved. However these data show that during the 2006/07 academic year there were a total of 68 GCSE achievements by 15 to 17-year-olds in Prison Service YOIs, of which:

19 people achieved one GCSE;

Five people achieved two GCSEs;

13 people achieved three GCSEs;

The LSC's young persons' learning 1 (YOL1) data show that during the 2007/08 academic year, for young people under the age of 18, there were 106 GCSE achievements between grades A and C, and 159 GCSE achievements below grade C. However the data set allowing us to break this down into the number of people achieving different numbers of GCSEs (i.e. ILR) is not yet available for the 2007/08 academic year.

Also, note that the figures quoted will not include all of the GCSEs achieved by young people in juvenile custody, as some young people in custody are still registered at schools and colleges and any GCSEs that they achieve while in custody will be reflected in achievement figures of schools and colleges, rather than the figures reported by the LSC in these statistics.

Also, many young people stay in custody only for a very short time, and therefore it is not realistic for them to achieve long-term qualifications while they are in custody, especially as GCSEs can only be taken at certain points of the year.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 27 March 2009, transferred from the Home Office on 2 April 2009, reference: M7547/9, on a nationwide database of children. [275842]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A response to the letter, from Baroness Delyth Morgan, was sent to the hon. Member on 5 May 2009.

National Curriculum Tests: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in receipt of free school meals achieved level *(a)* 7 and *(b)* 8 in Key Stage 3 examinations in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science in (A) 1997, (B) 2002, (C) 2005 and (D) the latest year for which figures are available; [262262]

(2) how many and what percentage of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* ineligible for free school meals achieved level 8 at Key Stage 3 in each of the last three years. [268489]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available for 1997 as prior to 2002 individual pupil characteristic information was not collected. The introduction of the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) in January 2002, which collects such information, meant that from 2002, pupil characteristic data could be matched to attainment data, allowing analyses of different groups of pupils.

The 2002 information is shown as follows:

	Eligible pupils			*Number of pupils achieving KS3 level 7*			*Number of pupils achieving KS3 level 8*			*Percentage of pupils achieving KS3 level 8*		
	English	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*
Non FSM	496,439	497,397	497,912	56,510	91,789	55,646	5,924	21,831	4,782	1	4	1
FSM	96,741	97,299	97,488	2,663	5,120	2,126	177	542	69	0	1	0
All pupil[1]	598,309	600,141	600,849	59,493	97,438	58,109	6,131	22,563	4,893	1	4	1

[1] Includes pupils for whom FSM information was not sought or for which information was refused

The 2005 information is shown as follows:

	Eligible pupils			*Number of pupils achieving KS3 level 7*			*Number of pupils achieving KS3 level 8*			*Percentage of pupils achieving KS3 level 8*		
	English	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*
Non FSM	512,353	512,162	512,626	53,377	113,581	67,435	—	30,342	—	—	6	—
FSM	94,804	94,689	94,875	2,048	7,240	2,313	—	901	—	—	1	—
All pupil[1]	611,274	610,947	611,629	55,630	121,325	69,986	—	31,365	—	—	5	—

[1] Includes pupils for whom FSM information was not sought or for which information was refused.

The 2006 information is shown as follows:

	Eligible pupils			*Number of pupils achieving KS3 level 7*			*Number of pupils achieving KS3 level 8*			*Percentage of pupils achieving KS3 level 8*		
	English	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*
Non FSM	512,623	513,092	513,371	56,270	125,629	84,998	—	45,137	—	—	9	—
FSM	90,671	90,700	90,855	2,364	9,233	3,362	—	1,543	—	—	2	—
All pupil[1]	607,174	607,707	608,156	58,903	135,469	88,756	—	46,894	—	—	8	—

[1] Includes pupils for whom FSM information was not sought or for which information was refused.

The 2007 information is shown as follows:

	Eligible pupils			*Number of pupils achieving KS3 level 7*			*Number of pupils achieving KS3 level 8*			*Percentage of pupils achieving KS3 level 8*		
	English	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*
Non FSM	495,289	495,655	496,155	44,577	114,235	84,570	—	44,471	—	—	9	—
FSM	86,713	86,708	86,846	1,749	8,234	3,519	—	1,652	—	—	2	—
All pupil[1]	582,002	582,363	583,001	46,326	122,469	88,089	—	46,123	—	—	8	—

[1] Includes pupils for whom FSM information was not sought or for which information was refused.

From 2003, level 8 can be achieved only in mathematics following the end of extension papers at KS3.

National Curriculum Assessment and GCSE/GNVQ Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2002 (final) and 2003 (provisional) can be found in SFR04/2004, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml

The National Curriculum Assessments by Pupil Characteristics, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2005 can be found in SFR09/2006, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml

The National Curriculum Assessments by Pupil Characteristics, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2005/06 (Provisional) can be found in SFR46/2006, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml

The National Curriculum Assessments by Pupil Characteristics, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07 can be found in SFR38/2007, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

Physical Education: Facilities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on capital expenditure on physical educational facilities in schools in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what recent estimate he has made of such capital expenditure in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2011-12. [275189]

Jim Knight: The Department relies on local authorities and schools to decide how much capital should be spent on physical educational facilities, and does not maintain central records of expenditure incurred or planned during the period 2007-08 to 2010-11. No financial commitment has been made by the Department beyond 31 March 2011.

In February 2008, the Secretary of State announced a capital programme to improve facilities for PE and sport at the most needy sports colleges. £10 million was allocated to sports colleges in 2008-09 and £21.5 million in 2009-10.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 577-79W, on pupil referral units, in which local authority area each of the pupil referral units is located. [271834]

Beverley Hughes: The local authority areas are shown against the pupil referral units (PRUs) and are listed as follows.

PRUs opened in 2008 by local authority

Local authority name	*PRU name*
Kent	Ashford and Shepway Alternative Curriculum PRU
Bradford	Bradford District PRU
Kent	Canterbury and Swale Alternative Curriculum PRU
Coventry	Chace Extended Learning Centre
Brent	Church Lane Pupil Referral Unit
Salford	Clifton and Grosvenor Centre
Kent	Dartford and Gravesham
Sunderland	Ks1 Pupil Referral Unit
Sunderland	KS2/3 PRU
Solihull	Lanchester PRU
Kent	Maidstone and Malling Alternative Curriculum PRU
Doncaster	Maple Medical PRU
Doncaster	Nexus Centre
Liverpool	Primary Centre
Wigan	Pupil Support Centre
Sunderland	School Returners/Young Mums Provision
Liverpool	Secondary Centre
Leicester	Short Course Centre
Southwark	Southwark Inclusive Learning Service KS3, KS4 and Sils+
Doncaster	Springboard Centre
Rotherham	St. Mary's Centre
Kent	Thanet and Dover Alternative Curriculum PRU
Hampshire	The Ashwood Centre
Wigan	The Beechwood Centre
Rotherham	The Bridge
Sunderland	The Cheadle Centre
Doncaster	The Gateway Centre
Wigan	The Lilford Centre
Wigan	The Phoenix Centre
Rotherham	The Rowan Centre
Kent	Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks Alternative Curriculum PRU
Nottingham	Unity Learning Centre

PRUs closed in 2008 by local authority

Local authority name	*PRU name*
Nottingham	Alternative Provision PRU
Doncaster	Beckett Road Centre
Coventry	Centre 4
Lambeth	Charles Edward Brooke Refugee Centre Co Charles Edward Brooke CofE School
Cornwall	Cornwall Hospital Education Service
Rotherham	Greasbrough Centre
Stockton-on-Tees	Greengates Primary Pupil Support Centre
Doncaster	Hexthorpe Centre
Doncaster	Hospital and Interim Tuition Service
Somerset	Link Education Centre (Orchard Lodge)
Liverpool	Mill Road Pupil Referral Unit, Ipors Centre
Wigan	Park Centre
Southwark	Southwark Inclusive Learning Service Plus (Sils+)
Wigan	Summit Centre
Sunderland	Sunderland Pupil Referral Unit
Rotherham	The Bridge
Salford	The Clifton Centre
Southwark	The Education Support Centre
Wigan	The Gerard Pupil Referral Unit
Salford	The Grosvenor Centre
Doncaster	The Long Sandall Centre
Lincolnshire	The Willows Centre Pupil Referral Unit
Leeds	Tinshill Learning Centre
Doncaster	Young Parents Centre
Milton Keynes	Young People Out of School Project

Source:
EduBase

Pupils

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the likely effects on school roll projections of changes in levels of immigration. [275999]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not provide guidance to local authorities on the likely effects on school roll projections of changes in levels of immigration. This is for authorities to determine, based on their knowledge of local demographics.

Schools: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools he expects to close in each local authority area in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [275095]

Jim Knight: School place planning is the statutory responsibility of individual local authorities (LAs). This includes making sure there are sufficient school places, and also removing surplus places when required. To facilitate this LAs have the power to propose the closure of maintained schools.

Where LAs propose to make any changes to local school provision, including closures, they must follow a statutory process, which is then decided under established local decision making arrangements. Ministers have no direct roll in the process.

Schools: Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what individual programmes and corresponding allocations are aggregated as other miscellaneous programmes for the year 2010-11 in the Schools section of Table 8.3 of his Department's 2008 Annual Report. [274273]

Jim Knight: The Department's grants and programmes aggregated as within other miscellaneous programmes for 2010-11 are provided in the following table:

Departmental report allocation

Schools:	*2010-11 (£ million)*
Music and Dance	37
Redundancy Costs	12
TDA	593
NCSL	83
Partnership for Schools	1
Teachers TV	9
National Strategies	473
Total	1,209

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants and corresponding allocations are aggregated as other standards funds for the years 2007-08 and 2010-11 in the Schools section of Table 8.3 of his Department's 2008 Annual Report. [274274]

Jim Knight: The Department's grants and programmes aggregated as within other standards funds for (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2010-11 are provided in the following table:

Departmental report allocation

Other standards fund	*2007-08*	*£ million 2010-11*
Schools Development Grant	1,898	2,133
Local Area Agreement Grant	166	—
Total	2,064	2,133

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants and corresponding allocations are aggregated within area based grants for the year 2010-11 in the Schools section of Table 8.3 of his Department's 2008 Annual Report. [274275]

Jim Knight: The Department's grants and programmes aggregated as within area based grants for 2010-11 are provided in the following table:

Departmental area based grants figures

DCSF grants to local authorities	*2010-11 (£ million)*
Connexions	467
Extended Schools - Start Up	71
School Development Grant (LA retained element)	168
Children's Fund	132
Positive Activities for Young People	95
Care Matters	55
Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	30
Primary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	30
Teenage Pregnancy	28
School Improvement Partners	24
Extended Rights for Free Travel	29
Children's Social Care Workforce	18
School Intervention	15
Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding	15
Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination	14
Education Health Partnerships	13
Child Death Review Processes	8
Youth Substance Misuse	7
School Travel Advisers	7
Choice Advisers	6
Youth Taskforce	4
General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School	4
Designated Teacher Funding	3
Child Trust Fund	1
Total Area Based Grants	1,242

The total in this table contains figures that have been updated since the publication of the 2008 Departmental Report.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's definition of community use in the Building Schools for the Future programme is in relation to sports facilities. [273470]

Jim Knight: There is no strict definition of "community use" in the Building Schools for the Future Programme. As set out in the Extended Schools prospectus, published in June 2005, the Government have encouraged all schools to offer a core set of extended services by 2010, including wider community access to sports facilities. However, it is up to individual governing bodies to decide the extent to which they do this, since they are responsible for controlling the occupation and use of school premises both during and out of school hours. Governing bodies are also best placed to define what the community is that each school serves.

Secondary schools built or upgraded under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme must conform to the Department's Building Bulletin (BB) 98, "Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects". This recommends that each school should have, as a minimum, a "four-court" sports hall designed to Sport England's specifications that cover community use. BB 98 also includes recommendations for outdoor sports pitches and games courts.

BSF investment is therefore ensuring that secondary schools will have sports facilities for use by the communities in which they are placed.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Transport

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children who *(a)* cycle and *(b)* walk to school. [272867]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: mode of travel as at January 2008, England

	Number of pupils who walk to school	*Percentage of pupils who walk to school*	*Number of pupils who cycle to school*	*Percentage of pupils who cycle to school*	*Total number of pupils for whom mode of travel was supplied[4]*
Number/percentage of pupils[5]	3,148,390	49.9	123,010	1.9	6,312,120

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes General Hospital schools.
[4] The collection of mode of travel to school data is only mandatory at pupil level for schools with an approved school travel plan. Data were received for 6,312,120 of the total number of 7,461,230 pupils.
[5] Solely registered pupils. Excludes boarders.
Source: School Census.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of schools received a rating of inadequate in their Ofsted report for behaviour in each of the last five years. [274607]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 8 May 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The 'inadequate' inspection outcome was introduced in September 2005 as part of a four-point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory, inadequate. Table A shows the outcome of the behaviour judgement for maintained schools inspected in each academic year since September 2005.

Table A: Behaviour in maintained schools inspected each year since 2005/06

Academic year	*Number of school inspections which included a behaviour judgment*	*Number of school inspections where behaviour was judged inadequate*	*School inspections where behaviour was judged inadequate, as a percentage of all school inspections*
2005/06	6,128	46	1
2006/07	[1]8,264	55	1
2007/08	[2]7,864	40	1

[1] Excludes 59 school inspections using a reduced set of judgments that did not include a judgment on behaviour.
[2] Excludes 2 school inspections of sixth form schools where only post-16 judgments were made. One of these inspections was judged to have good behaviour at the post-16 level, and the other had no behaviour judgment.

Teachers: Recruitment

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Teach Next programme; and if he will make a statement. [275056]

Jim Knight: We have more teachers in the classroom than in 1997. We have a range of routes for people who want to change career into teaching and these can be accessed direct or via transition to teaching. Most take up either postgraduate certificates in education (PGCE) or the employment-based Graduate Teacher programme.

The Becoming a Teacher evaluation (Hobson et al., 2006) found that 97 per cent. of survey respondents reported feeling 'very' or 'fairly' confident that their ITT programme had prepared them to be an effective teacher. However, a higher proportion of employment-based trainees, and a lower proportion of PGCE trainees, than those following other routes reported feeling 'very confident' that their ITT route had prepared them to be an effective teacher.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of Graduate Teacher Programme places made available by the Training and Development Agency for Schools in 2008-09 were eligible for a salary grant. [274584]

Jim Knight: There were 4,335 salary and training grant places allocated by the Training and Development Agency for Schools and these represent 93 per cent. of all Graduate Teacher Programme places in academic year 2008/09.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many trainees have failed initial teacher training in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [275034]

Jim Knight: Information about trainees who did not gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) is only available for trainees in their final year of training. The tables show the number of final year ITT trainees for each academic year between 1998/99 and 2006/07 who did not gain QTS in their final year of training and of these the number who left their course before completion and the number where the outcome of QTS is unknown for:

1. Postgraduate ITT trainees
2. Undergraduate ITT trainees
3. Employment Based Routes (EBR) trainees

Information relating to the number of trainees through mainstream courses gaining QTS is only available from 1998/99 onwards. The same information for trainees on employment based routes was only collected from 2001/02 onwards. Figures relating to 2007/08 will be available in July 2009.

1. Postgraduate ITT trainees

			Number of postgraduate final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
1998/99	17,430	15,160	1,260	130	880	2,270
1999/2000	17,170	14,850	1,250	140	940	2,320
2000/01	18,680	16,150	1,310	250	970	2,530
2001/02	19,480	16,940	1,090	0	1,450	2,540
2002/03	21,590	19,180	1,020	*	1,400	2,410
2003/04	24,590	21,460	1,430	0	1,700	3,130
2004/05	25,200	21,780	1,390	20	2,010	3,420
2005/06	25,100	21,600	1,290	10	2,210	3,500
2006/07	24,660	21,080	1,210	*	2,370	3,580

* = Less than 5.

Notes:

1. Includes trainees from Universities and other Higher Education Institutions, School Centred Initial Teacher Training and Open Universities but exclude Employment Based Routes (EBR).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test were not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skills test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles

2. Undergraduate ITT trainees

			Number of undergraduate final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
1998/99	9,770	8,910	50	340	470	860
1999/2000	7,490	6,850	40	210	390	640
2000/01	7,040	6,490	40	240	270	550
2001/02	6,870	6,340	40	0	490	530
2002/03	6,980	6,250	40	*	690	730
2003/04	6,380	5,880	50	0	460	500
2004/05	6,160	5,360	20	0	770	790
2005/06	6,120	5,410	20	10	680	710
2006/07	6,690	5,900	40	0	750	790

• = Less than 5.

Notes:

1. Includes trainees from Universities and other Higher Education Institutions, School and Open Universities but exclude Employment Based Routes (EBR).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test were not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skills test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles

3. Employment Based Routes (EBR) trainees

			Number of EBR final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
2001/02	2,440	2,210	30	0	190	230
2002/03	4,030	3,670	340	0	20	360
2003/04	4,950	4,470	440	0	30	470
2004/05	7,220	6,600	260	0	350	610
2005/06	6,970	6,090	420	0	450	870
2006/07	7,840	7,120	350	0	380	720

Notes:

1. Includes trainees through Employment Based Routes (EBR) only.
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test were not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skills test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

British Humanist Association

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings Ministers in her Department have had with the British Humanist Association in the last 36 months. [274781]

Mr. Khan: I met the British Humanist Association on 10 February 2009 to discuss a range of issues. My predecessor, the hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda), met the organisation on 12 November 2007.

Commission for Local Administration in England

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to her Department of the Office of the local government ombudsman has been in each of the last five years. [274779]

John Healey: The amount of grant paid by this Department to the local government ombudsman from 2004-05 to 2008-09 is set out in the Local Government Finance Report and is as follows:

	£
2004-05	11,058,000
2005-06	11,522,400
2006-07	13,221,000
2007-08	12,851,000
2008-09	12,600,000

For 2009-10 we have made provision in the Main Estimates of £16,155,000 for grants to the local government ombudsman, including a provision for possible future redundancies and a provision to fund the additional remit the ombudsman will have for schools and health matters, if and when the relevant provisions in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill and Health Bill currently before Parliament are enacted and come into force.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what was the *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash rise in (i) average B and D council tax in England and (ii) average council tax per dwelling in England in (A) absolute and (B) real terms in each year since 1997-98. [274768]

John Healey: Information on the change in both percentage and cash terms in the average band D council tax in England and the average council tax per dwelling in England in both absolute and real terms in each year since 1997-98 is shown in the tables.

	Absolute change		*Real terms change*[1]	
	£	*Percentage*	*£*	*Percentage*
Band D, two adults for area				
1997-98[2]	42	6.5	36	4.0
1998-99[2]	59	8.6	41	4.4
1999-2000	51	6.8	51	5.1
2000-01	49	6.1	32	3.1
2001-02	54	6.4	48	4.5
2002-03	75	8.2	75	6.7
2003-04	126	12.9	112	9.5
2004-05[2]	65	5.9	43	3.3
2005-06[2]	47	4.1	11	0.8
2006-07	54	4.5	23	1.9
2007-08	53	4.2	-4	-0.3
2008-09[2]	52	3.9	-4	-0.3

	Absolute change		Real terms change[1]	
	£	Percentage	£	Percentage
2009-10	41	3.0	—	—
Average dwelling				
1997-98[2]	39	7.4	36	4.9
1998-99[2]	50	8.9	36	4.6
1999-2000	42	6.8	42	5.2
2000-01	41	6.3	27	3.2
2001-02	44	6.3	39	4.5
2002-03	63	8.5	63	6.9
2003-04	104	12.9	93	9.5
2004-05[2]	59	6.5	42	3.9
2005-06[2]	42	4.3	12	1.1
2006-07	47	4.7	23	2.0
2007-08	45	4.3	-2	-0.2
2008-09[2]	44	4.0	-2	-0.2
2009-10	30	2.6	—	—

[1] Adjusted using the all items retail prices index (RPI) as at April each year and based on April 2008 prices.
[2] Amounts shown are after the designation of authorities requiring them to recalculate their budget requirement and council tax.
Source:
BR1, BR2, BR3 and CTB returns

The real terms change data for 2009-10 will not be available until after the publication of the April RPI figure on 19 May 2009.

Amounts shown are calculated on headline taxes and before benefits. Where indicated the figures are calculated after the designation of authorities that required them to recalculate their budget requirement and council tax.

The data are taken from the annual council tax base forms completed by all billing authorities in England and the Budget requirement forms completed by all billing and precepting authorities in England.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of the *(a)* feasibility and *(b)* likely effect on the economy of replacing council tax with a local income tax. [275818]

John Healey: No. The Government agree with Sir Michael Lyons's conclusion, following his inquiry into local government, that council tax is broadly sound and should be retained. In his report Sir Michael concluded that a local income tax would result in a "significant rebalancing of the tax burden".

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 765W, on council tax: valuation, when she plans to place in the Library a copy of the information referred to in the answer. [274706]

John Healey: A copy of the information referred to has been placed in the Library.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on the maintenance of its IT equipment in the last 12 months. [272875]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has outsourced its corporate IT service to Steria Limited and costs of maintaining IT equipment are absorbed into the annual cost of the service. The service cost for financial year April 2008 to March 2009 for that service was £4.5 million. Information on the cost of maintenance of other IT systems in the Department is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in her Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273552]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 234W to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott).

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Heban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in her Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005. [274461]

Mr. Khan: There have been no BlackBerry devices or mobile telephones reported as lost by Ministers, or special advisers in Communities and Local Government, which was created in May 2006 or its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, in any of the years since 2005.

However, one mobile phone was reported as lost by a civil servant in Communities and Local Government in the year 2008-09.

This answer does not include Government offices for the regions who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departmental Publications

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable her Department has set for the publication of its evidence and innovation strategy. [272342]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government intends to publish an evidence and innovation strategy in late 2009.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273777]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government Department was established in May 2006. Since that time the Department has spent the following on branded stationery:

	Amount spent plus VAT
2006-07	18,642.50
2007-08	11,005.50
2008-09	7,198.65

For information relating to the amount spent on promotional materials for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister between 2002 and the abolition of the Department in 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1934W.

Since the establishment of the Department for Communities and Local Government the costs of gifts for internal and external promotion are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the administrative cost to the public purse of the operation of the right to buy scheme in each year since 1997; [274844]

(2) what her Department's policy on the charging by local authorities of right to buy administrative costs to their housing revenue accounts is; and if she will make a statement. [274845]

Mr. Iain Wright: A local authority is permitted to fund its administrative costs incidental to and of a right to buy (RTB) disposal from the receipt arising from that disposal.

A local authority's other administrative costs relating to RTB are required to be charged to its housing revenue account.

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department will have in oversight of the Local Authority Leaders' Forums. [274818]

John Healey: The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill provides for the Government to establish and fund the activities of the Local Authority Leaders' Boards in relation to work on the preparation, drafting and implementation of the Regional Strategy.

The Department will be responsible for agreeing the scheme under which the Leaders' Board in each region will be established and also for ensuring that value for money is obtained through agreement of business plans.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-68W, on local authorities: grants, what the grant per capita to each local authority was in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what the average grant per capita to (i) district councils, (ii) unitary councils, (iii) county councils, (iv) metropolitan councils and (v) London boroughs was in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [274714]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1074W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which shire counties do not levy a separate fire precept. [274769]

John Healey: No shire counties levy a separate fire precept.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much debt each local authority had in the most recent year for which figures are available. [274786]

John Healey: I have today placed in the Library of the House, a table containing details of the gross debt that each local authority in England had at 31 March 2008.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how long local authorities retain revenue raised through reductions in council tax discounts on *(a)* empty and *(b)* second homes before equalisation processes in the calculation of Government grants are applied. [274790]

John Healey: The distribution of formula grant to local authorities in England takes account of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the authority, together with its relative ability to raise council tax, expressed in terms of the council tax base. We then ensure that every authority receives at least a minimum percentage increase (the 'floor') year-on-year on a like-for-like basis. In order to pay for the cost of the floor, we scale back the increase in grant above the floor for other authorities.

Since the introduction of multi-year settlements, we have used projected tax base data in the calculation of formula grant. The starting point for the tax base projections used in the current three-year settlement, covering 2008-09 to 2010-11, is the tax base as at 8 October 2007 adjusted for student exemptions. This is then increased annually by the Secretary of State's estimate of the average annual increase in the tax base for the authority between 10 October 2005 and 8 October 2007.

The actual discount applied to long-term empty homes is applied for all authorities in calculating the tax base for the purposes of distributing formula grant. Any reduction in the discount applied to long-term empty homes commencing after 8 October 2007, will not be reflected in the projected taxbase calculations until the 2011-12 settlement.

Since 1 April 2004, althoagh billing authorities have been able to reduce the council tax discount for second homes in their area (to between 10 and 50 per cent.), a discount of 50 per cent. has continued to be assumed for all authorities in calculating the tax base for the purposes of distributing formula grant.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the outcomes of the Place Survey. [274912]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 396W.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect on her Department's expenditure in 2009-10 of local government restructuring. [274744]

John Healey: The Department's running cost budget for 2009-10 includes provision of £1.57 million for work on local governance, including work on any reorganisations of local authorities. As required by the affordability criterion for the unitary bids, implementing the unitary proposals is self-financing, and the savings generated by the new unitary councils are available to be invested in front-line services or to reduce the pressure on council tax; hence, implementing a unitary council has no additional impact on departmental expenditure.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps her Department has taken to monitor the performance of local authorities. [275412]

John Healey: The final results from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) were published by the Audit Commission in March 2009. These showed the highest ever number of top-performing councils, with more than ever before assessed as 'improving strongly'.

On 1 April we introduced the new system for assessment and inspection of local outcomes, Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), as part of the new local performance framework. CAA builds and improves on CPA, covering outcomes delivered by local authorities acting alone or in partnership, and is carried out jointly by six local public service inspectorates. The first CAA reports will be published in November 2009. For each local area the reports will comprise an area assessment—which looks at how well local public services are delivering local priorities and how likely they are to improve in the future—and organisational assessments of individual local public bodies, including local authorities.

Ahead of CAA, following sign-off of the new Local Area Agreements (LAAs) in June 2008, a review of local areas' initial efforts to prepare for LAA delivery was carried out by the Government Offices earlier this year. The review indicated that local authorities and their partners were progressing well with their LAAs, with the vast majority of areas strengthening partnership and delivery arrangements to enhance their ability to meet improvement targets.

Where performance issues are not being addressed sufficiently quickly or effectively in local areas, Government Offices will work with local partners and central Government to provide challenge, broker appropriate action, and monitor improvement. This may range from additional support from the local government sector, to consultancy support, inspection, or ultimately formal intervention action.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish a summary of the responses to the consultation on Changing Council Governance Arrangements. [275544]

John Healey: As we indicated in our consultation document on Changing Council Governance Arrangements, we will produce a summary of responses within three months of the close of the consultation—13 March 2009. This will be published on the Department's website.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the average *(a)* business rate bill and *(b)* aggregate business rate revenue at (i) the end of transitional relief period in 2009-10 and (ii) the point at which the 5 per cent. rise in the multiplier will be applied in 2009-10. [274750]

John Healey: No information is held centrally on individual businesses' bills; therefore the average change in business rates bills cannot be calculated.

The reduction in rate yield due to full rate increases being deferred for 2008-09 was £106 million. The net change in yield as a result of transitional relief in 2008-09 was £69.4 million. Data for 2009-10 are not yet available.

In 2009-10 businesses will be able to defer a proportion of their business rates bill increase. Following is a link to an announcement of the Government's plans for deferral, which includes an estimate of the cost of the proposal:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/localgovernment/1191049

This estimate will be updated in the impact assessment that will be undertaken and published as part of the process of making the necessary secondary legislation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments in each Government office region have a rateable value of less than £10,000. [274752]

John Healey: The numbers of hereditaments with a rateable value of less than £10,000, by Government office region, are shown in the following table.

Hereditaments with a rateable value of less than £10,000

	Number
North East	51,304
North West	158,285
Yorkshire and the Humber	116,216
East Midlands	87,298
West Midlands	117,324
East of England	110,438

Hereditaments with a rateable value of less than £10,000

	Number
London	138,639
South East	140,899
South West	127,573
Total England	1,047,976

The data are as at 31 March 2009 and are from the Valuation Office Agency.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the gross cost before the application of downward phasing was of providing transitional relief in respect of business rate revaluation in England in each year from 2005-06. [274753]

John Healey: The reduction in rate yield on the local list due to full rate increases being deferred for each year from 2005-06 is shown in the table:

	Gross cost (£ million)
2005-06[1]	1,167
2006-07[1]	501
2007-08[1]	230
2008-09[2]	106

[1] Data from NNDR 3: National Non-Domestic Rate Collection Yield Outturn returns
[2] Data from NNDR 1: National Non-Domestic Rate Collection Yield Forecast returns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to *(a)* undertake and *(b)* publish a (i) small firms and (ii) privacy impact assessment in respect of the 2010 business rate revaluation. [274909]

John Healey: The 2010 business rates revaluation takes effect from 1 April 2010. We will publish a draft impact assessment alongside our proposals for transitional arrangements to phase in changes in rate bills as a result of the revaluation later in the summer.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what date businesses must apply in order to be eligible for the deferral of 2009-10 business rate increases. [274910]

John Healey: The Government are currently considering the further detail and administrative arrangements for the business rates deferral scheme, working collaboratively with the local government sector and business to ensure ease of implementation.

The regulations authorising the scheme are planned to come into effect this summer and will set out in detail the application process and timetable. Businesses will be contacted by their billing authority and invited to apply for the scheme shortly after the regulations come into effect.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1067-68W, on non-domestic rates, what estimate her Department has made of the maximum revenue that would be raised in England from supplementary business rates based on *(a)* 2009 rateable values and *(b)* 2010 rateable values post-revaluation calculated on the same basis as the estimates provided for maximum revenue based on 2007 rateable values in Table 3.4 of Business Rate Supplements: A White Paper. [274935]

John Healey: The Department has not made any further calculations of possible future revenues from supplementary business rates beyond those based on 2007 rateable values and published in Table 3.4 of Business Rate Supplements: A White Paper.

Rented Housing

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will end the target rent scheme in 2009-10. [275838]

Mr. Iain Wright: No. Future rents policy is tied in with work currently being undertaken as part of the Review of Council Housing Finance.

Shops: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent edition of the Valuation Office Agency's zoning of shops valuation handbook. [274911]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 510W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Art Collection

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items from the Government Art Collection are in *(a)* departmental offices, *(b)* ministerial residences, *(c)* offices of non-departmental public bodies, *(d)* public galleries, *(e)* embassies overseas, *(f)* storage and *(g)* elsewhere. [271210]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The Government Art Collection comprises some 13,700 works of art. Its main purpose is to promote Britain by the acquisition and display of works of art (mostly by British artists) in the representational areas of major British Government buildings in the UK and abroad, where they are seen by thousands of visitors every year. At any one time some 70 per cent. of the collection is out on display, and the figures given here change on a daily basis.

The latest figures available are:

(a) 2,043 Government Art Collection (GAC) works of art in departmental offices.

(b) 560 in ministerial residences (including the whole of 10 and 11 Downing Street).

(c) 187 in offices of non-departmental public bodies and similar.

(d) 69 on loan to public galleries (including loans to temporary exhibitions).

(e) 5,404 in embassies overseas.

(f) 4,535 currently at the GAC's premises and available for selection and display; 470 of these were earmarked for specific locations (i.e. selected and awaiting installation). Of the rest, three were in commercial storage and 23 were being conserved and/or reframed.

(g) 912 displayed elsewhere (i.e. to organisations which do not fall into the categories a-f, such as in London: Lancaster House, Marlborough House and the Somerset House Trust; and abroad: the Offices of the Council of Europe in Paris and the European Commission Offices in Brussels).

Performing Arts: Discrimination

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the performing arts on age discrimination in respect of performers in theatre, film, radio and television; and if he will make a statement. [274810]

Barbara Follett: I have had no recent discussions of this nature. DCMS is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and we encourage our sectors to make the most of the full range of talent available to them.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: E-mail

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his policy is on the use of web-based e-mail accounts on computers in 10 Downing Street. [275112]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of Cabinet Office and therefore follows its guidelines and policies in the use of ICT. The policy for the current Cabinet Office systems does not allow for any web-based e-mail accounts. Web-based e-mail accounts are permitted on a new pilot system, due to the increased security measures we are able to apply. If the system is rolled out, the Cabinet Office will reconsider its policy on web-based e-mails.

Census: Finance

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what budget has been allocated to the generation of outputs from the 2011 Census. [274196]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what budget has been allocated to the generation of outputs from the 2011 Census. (274196)

The purpose of conducting a Census is to generate statistics and over the period 2005-2016 the budget for the Census as a whole is £482 million. Provision of £450 million for the cost of the Census has been made up to the period 2011-12. Of this £450 million, £7.5 million has been allocated to the early development of Census outputs. Provision for later years from 2012/13 will be subject to future spending reviews and will cover the final stages of data and output processing, preparing, publishing and disseminating outputs, and a number of subsequent output services and releases. This is set out in paragraphs 1.28 and 1.29 of the 2011 Census White Paper 'Helping to shape tomorrow' which was published in December 2008. A copy was placed in the House of Commons library and is also available on the website at

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/legislation/index.html

Final decisions have not yet been made about how the statistics are disseminated. We are at present conducting consultation with census users on their requirements for types of statistics and area levels and the ways in which they will be made available.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of former civil servants have had their pension payments *(a)* reduced and *(b)* increased in the last 12 months; and for what reason in each case. [270080]

Mr. Watson: In April each year the pensions, payable from the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, of all former civil servants and their dependants are increased in line with inflation in accordance with the provisions of the Pensions Increase Act 1971 and Social Security Pensions Act 1975.

The Civil Service Pension Scheme is a statutory scheme and pensions are accordingly corrected when an under or overpayment is identified. I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I gave to the House on 16 December 2008.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the administration costs of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme were in each of the last 10 years. [272639]

Mr. Watson: Central management costs of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are met by appropriations in aid of the Cabinet Office from the accruing superannuation liability charges paid by employers. For financial years from 2001-02, these amounts are shown by way of note to the resource accounts for Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation. The central administration costs for earlier years are:

	£ million
2000-01	14.4
1999-2000	13.6
1998-99	13.5

Day-to-day administration costs are met by individual employers and details are not held centrally.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many early retirements among members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme there were in the last five years for which figures are available. [272640]

Mr. Watson: Figures are held centrally only in respect of early retirements on the grounds of ill-health. From 2006-07 these numbers are included in the resource

accounts for Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation. Copies of the resource accounts can be found in the Library and on the civil service pensions website at

www.civilservice.gov.uk/pensions

Figures for the earlier years are as follows:

Financial year	*Ill-health retirement applications approved*
2003-04	1,343
2004-05	1,209
2005-06	1,135

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme has issued to employing departments on enhancements of civil service pension entitlements for scheme members who *(a)* are made redundant, *(b)* take early retirement other than on grounds of ill health and *(c)* take early retirement on grounds of ill health. [272642]

Mr. Watson: On redundancies and early retirements other than those on the grounds of ill-health, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in the other place to the noble Lord, Lord Laird, on 3 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA 134-35.

The terms payable in respect of early retirements on the grounds of ill-health are set out in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, a statutory scheme made under the Superannuation Act 1972. The rules of the scheme can be found on the Civil Service Pensions website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of pension payments made to civil servants who have taken early retirement between the date of their retirement and the date they reached the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme normal retirement age was in each of the last five years. [272644]

Mr. Watson: Employing Departments are responsible for meeting the full costs of early retirements of civil servants other than those on the grounds of ill-health. The annual cost of pension payments made before the scheme's pension age in respect of such early retirements is contained in Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts (in the note to the accounts entitled "Revenue account—CSCS compensation agency arrangements"). Copies of the resource accounts can be found in the Library and on the civil service pensions website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/pensions

The annual cost of pension payments made before the scheme's pension age in respect of early retirements on the grounds of ill-health is not recorded separately. However, each year, the resource accounts of each employing department give details of the total additional annual pension granted to any of their employees who retired on the grounds of ill-health during that year.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many retired civil servants receive a civil service pension of between *(a)* £2,000 and £3,000, *(b)* £3,000 and £4,000 and *(c)* £4,000 and £5,000 per annum. [274169]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* As at 7 May 2009 the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme is paying 52,741 pensioners a gross pension between £2000 and £3000; 46,257 pensioners a pension between £3,000 and £4,000, and 37,644 pensioners a pension between £4,000 and £5,000 per annum. "Pensioners" includes retired officers but not those in receipt of a dependant's pension.

Civil Servants: Redundancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his policy is on the size of redundancy payments for civil servants; and if he will make a statement. [272643]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Prime Minister on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 60-61WS.

Civil Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the mechanisms are for reviewing the content of the Civil Service Code; and if he will make a statement. [274617]

Mr. Watson: The Civil Service Code is kept under review and is updated as and when required.

Copies of the Civil Service Code are available in the Library of the House and available at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/cs_code_tcm6-2444.pdf

Departmental Contracts for Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274454]

Kevin Brennan: Information regarding contracts for the provision of estates management and corporately provided information and communications technology (ICT) which have been outsourced over the past five years, and the year that they were outsourced, are as follows:

Telephone service management (2007);

Security guarding services, not previously outsourced (2007).

Centrally held records do not show any other services being outsourced over that period.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274531]

Mr. Watson: The complaints handling procedure for the Cabinet Office is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ContactUs/Complaints.aspx

A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269578]

Mr. Watson: The majority of servers used by my Department are supplied under our current ICT contract by Fujitsu services. The Cabinet Office possesses fileserver storage used mainly for the storage of documents and databases. The amount used over the past four years is as follows:

	December			
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Data Size (GB)	2,481	3,814	4,700	5,400
Utilisation (percentage)	30	46	57	65

We have no information about the server capacity utilisation in 2004.

The Department also has a small number of servers used for the operation of its e-mail system. The volatile nature of the e-mail traffic and the need to keep real-time backups, mean that these servers provide optimum performance at less than 20 per cent. capacity.

The Department has recently instituted a policy of moving to storage area networking (SAN) devices. These allow several applications to share a server and so make much more efficient use of its capacity. Our current SAN has a utilisation rate of 80 per cent.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269601]

Mr. Watson: On 17 July 2008, I launched the Greening Government ICT Strategy. Its aim is to reduce the environmental impact of the computer systems employed by all Government bodies. In the strategy, one important target is to reduce the overall number of printers used by an organisation and replace them with multi-function devices (MFDs) where security issues allow. The MFDs should use green printing defaults wherever possible.

The Department has used the following number of multi-function devices with printing functions and printers during the past five years.

December	*MFDs*	*Printers*
2008	147	164
2007	167	161
2006	156	150
2005	149	133
2004	128	127

All multi-functional devices are capable of two-sided printing, and indeed are set up to do so as the default.

Since 2003, my Department has had a policy of installing multi-user MFDs as the main device for printing. A number of printers have been retained, but they are only used where there are specific business reasons.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in (A) the Cabinet Office and (B) the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 2005. [268282]

Mr. Watson: The number of mobile phones purchased by the Cabinet Office in each year since 2005 are shown as follows:

	Number
2005	219
2006	242
2007	226
2008	235

At April 2009 the Cabinet Office has 198 BlackBerrys in use. Records of when these were purchased are not held centrally so the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Our records do not differentiate between mobile devices supplied to Ministers, special advisers and civil servants.

The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274512]

Kevin Brennan: Information relating to spend on conference and banqueting services is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274549]

Kevin Brennan: Information relating to spend on health and safety for each of the last five years is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform the implications for handling sensitive data of the overseas ownership of suppliers of services to BT under its contract for handling sensitive Government IT systems. [272398]

Mr. Watson: All communications services providers supplying services to Government must comply with the appropriate security standards as determined by Government Departments in their information risk management and protective security policies.

Regular discussions take place between Ministers and officials across government as appropriate to address information security and assurance requirements and policies for Government.

Government Departments: Press Releases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the *(a)* issue and *(b)* content of departmental press releases is subject to a code of conduct. [273263]

Mr. Watson: All Government communications activity is subject to strict propriety guidance, which, along with the Civil Service Code, defines how civil servants can properly and effectively present Government policies and programmes.

Copies of the communication propriety guidance have been placed in the Library of the House, copies of the Civil Service Code are available in the Library of the House and can be found at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/cs_code_tcm6-2444.pdf

Local Government: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who monitors the performance of local authorities under the *(a)* Customer Service Excellence and *(b)* Charter Mark schemes. [273254]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office is the owner of the customer service excellence and charter mark schemes. Cabinet Office licenses four independent certification bodies to provide assessment processes for customer service excellence and charter mark. The certification bodies are the sole decision makers in the process of certifying organisations as CSE or charter mark holders. They manage all matters relating to the ongoing suitability and status of holders in local government and other sectors.

Ministers: Costs

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will estimate the average annual cost to each Department of *(a)* a Secretary of State, *(b)* a Minister of State and *(c)* a Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the last 12 months. [273142]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* Instruction on the reporting of the remuneration of Government Ministers is set out by HM Treasury in the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). Under this guidance, information on ministerial salaries is provided in the remuneration section of Departments' annual Resource Accounts, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Ministers: Data Protection

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many security breaches involving confidential documents left *(a)* on public transport and *(b)* elsewhere involved (i) Cabinet Ministers and (ii) advisers to Cabinet Ministers in each of the last three years. [271007]

Mr. Watson: It is for individual Departments to collate information on security breaches within their Departments.

Pensions

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much revenue he expects to accrue to the Exchequer from the application of the correct pension increases for pensioners in the five schemes affected by the incorrect indexation of the guaranteed minimum pension in the next 12 months. [271528]

Mr. Watson: Pensions and other benefits paid from the pension schemes concerned are accounted for in the annual Resource Accounts for the schemes. Resource Accounts for the year 2009-10 will be published following the end of the year in question.

Strategy Committee

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the reasons were for the formation of the Cabinet Office's Strategy Committee; when it was established; on whose authority the committee was established; what its objectives are; who its members are; how often it has met; and if he will make a statement. [274183]

Kevin Brennan: There is no such committee within the Cabinet Office.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what estimate the Electoral Commission has made of the proportion of unregistered voters who are functionally illiterate. [275408]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it has made no estimate of the proportion of unregistered voters who are functionally illiterate.

However, the Commission's 2005 report, "Understanding electoral registration", found a correlation between under-registration and those with no educational qualifications. This correlation is more pronounced for the younger age groups, with non-registration approximately 8 per cent. among 18 to 34-year-olds who hold some form of educational qualification and 15 per cent. for those reporting no qualifications.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission is taking to assist functionally illiterate people to register to vote. [275409]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it issues guidance to electoral registration officers (EROs) on providing assistance to people with low levels of

literacy, and that it includes as part of its performance standards framework a requirement that EROs ensure that the registration process is straightforward and accessible for electors.

The Commission provides materials to help EROs and community groups to communicate with people with literacy or learning difficulties, and also funds, through its partnership grants programme, projects to increase registration among people with learning disabilities.

Local Government: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission for what reasons the Boundary Committee for England did not select the East Suffolk/West Suffolk/Ipswich pattern as a formal option for consultation in its structural review of Suffolk local government. [275212]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Boundary Committee considered that an East Suffolk/West Suffolk/Ipswich pattern would, on the basis of the information before it, be unlikely to have the capacity to deliver the outcomes specified by the Secretary of State's five criteria.

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission for what reasons the Boundary Committee for England's March 2009 consultation on preferred patterns for the future of local government in Suffolk proposed an additional public service village in Stowmarket in the rural authority in the pattern B option; and for what reasons such a village was not proposed in the pattern A option. [275220]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that in its further draft proposal report the Boundary Committee outlined potential arrangements to deliver the outcomes specified by the Secretary of State's five criteria.

One of these arrangements is for a pattern of "service delivery villages". These are centres typically providing shared local offices for public sector service providers, intended to encourage shared solutions to local problems. In pattern A, which is a unitary county authority, the committee proposed locating the public service villages in the three largest towns: Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds and Lowestoft. In pattern B, the committee requested views on whether the town of Stowmarket would be an appropriate location for a public service village, serving residents living in the centre of Suffolk, bearing in mind that Ipswich would be included in a separate unitary authority.

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Boundary Committee for England has determined Lowestoft to be *(a)* an urban area and *(b)* a market town. [275239]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its Boundary Committee has not determined Lowestoft to be either an urban area or a market town for the purposes of its further draft proposals for unitary local government in Suffolk. It is not the committee's remit to decide how an area should be defined.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Nuclear Fuels

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* final severance package and *(b)* pension arrangements were for the previous chief executive of British Nuclear Fuels plc. [267063]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

In line with the company's standard terms of employment, the outgoing chief executive of BNFL, Mike Parker CBE, is entitled to a redundancy payment equivalent to one times his basic salary. There are no other severance related payments due to him. There are no BNFL pension arrangements for Mike Parker; he does not participate in the BNFL pension scheme and the company has not made contributions to any other pension scheme on his behalf.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanism exists for the co-ordination of measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from Government Departments' data centres. [274899]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government Chief Information Officer Council is co-ordinating measures to implement the Greening Government ICT Strategy published last July. The strategy includes early actions to increase the average server capacity utilisation, which will reduce the overall level of carbon dioxide emissions in data centres and accord with the European Code of Conduct. The CIO Council are also working with the Public Sector Council of Intellect, the trade association for the high technology industries, on a forward strategy for Government data centres to reduce costs and carbon emissions.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending eligibility for the £200 annual winter fuel payment to all people with spinal cord injuries. [272348]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over, including those who are disabled. We do not collect statistics on the number of people aged below 60 with spinal cord injuries.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Control

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many times the National Resilience Forum on Flooding has met since it was established; and if he will make a statement; [269967]

(2) what the membership of the National Resilience Forum on Flooding is; and if he will make a statement. [269968]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The National Resilience Forum has not yet met. In December, in the Government's reply to Sir Michael Pitt's Review, we said that the aim would be for an inaugural meeting in the first half of 2009. The National Security Forum has since met for the first time, in March, which has helped us review proposals for the National Resilience Forum. Detailed proposals and the issue of invitations will commence as soon as possible after this review is complete.

Floods: Property Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on floods: property development, how many local planning authorities are considered by the Environment Agency not to have complied with planning policy statement 25 in each of the last five years. [273523]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has advised that the number of planning applications given planning permission against its advice on flood risk grounds over the past five years, and the number of local planning authorities (LPAs) this represented, is as follows:

	Total number of planning applications permitted against Environment Agency advice on flood risk	*Total number of LPAs granting planning permission against an Environment Agency flood risk objection*
2003-04	323	85
2004-05	248	108
2005-06	136	82
2006-07	110	72
2007-08	124	76

Planning policy statement (PPS) 25, 'Development and Flood Risk', was published in December 2006. Prior to that date, national planning policy on development and flood risk was set out in planning policy guidance note 25. These policies apply only to England.

It is for the local planning authority to determine planning applications in accordance with the development plan for the area, taking account of the particular circumstances of each application and subject to other material planning considerations.

Further detailed information about the extent to which local planning authorities have taken account of the Environment Agency's advice on flood risk is set out in the Environment Agency's annual 'Development and Flood Risk' monitoring report. The most recent report was published in February 2009, covering the period 2007-08. This shows that where flood risk was an issue, around 96 per cent. of all planning application decisions, as notified to the Environment Agency, were in line with the Environment Agency's advice.

Hydroelectric Power: Licensing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water abstraction licences for hydro-electric schemes the Environment Agency has *(a)* received an application for, *(b)* issued and *(c)* refused in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each of the last three years. [275947]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of abstraction licence applications received and new abstraction licences granted for hydropower schemes are given in the following table. The Environment Agency introduced a national Water Resources authorisations receipt tracking system in November 2008. As a result, data on the number of applications received and refused are only available from November 2008 onwards. Prior to this, information was not held centrally. To collate pre-2008 data would incur disproportionate costs.

	Applications received		*Licences refused*		*Licences issued*	
	England	*Wales*	*England*	*Wales*	*England*	*Wales*
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	0
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	2
2008	4	0	0	0	10	1
2009	13	0	0	0	7	0

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1196W, on departmental buildings, to what use the ministerial residence within 1 Carlton Gardens has been put. [274141]

Gillian Merron: The ministerial residence within 1 Carlton Gardens has not been used since 16 October 2007 but the Foreign and Commonwealth Office uses the function rooms of 1 Carlton Gardens for a range of events hosted by Ministers and senior officials, as well as other departmental meetings.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Pakistani Government on minimisation of civilian casualties during military operations in Buner and Lower Dir. [273146]

Bill Rammell: *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed the situation in North West Frontier province with Foreign Minister Qureshi on 25 April 2009. As part of our wider defence engagement programme, we will continue our efforts to build the capacity of the Pakistani military to mount effective operations that minimise civilian casualties. The UK is also helping the Government of Pakistan to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of those most directly affected by insecurity. We have so

far dispersed £2 million and have recently committed an additional £10 million. Our funds are being channelled through humanitarian agencies on the ground to give food supplies and shelter to those most in need, as well as supplying essential water and sanitation and basic health care.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the deployment of armed US Predator unmanned aerial vehicles from airbases within Pakistan. [273322]

Bill Rammell: US actions should be discussed between the US and Pakistani Governments. We cannot comment on intelligence matters.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Government of Pakistan on the deployment of armed US Predator unmanned aerial vehicles within Pakistani airspace. [273323]

Bill Rammell: Any such deployments would be for discussion between the US and Pakistani Governments.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1030W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the dates were of the secondment of each UK official to the US-led review of American defence and security policy; and if he will make a statement. [274388]

David Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Gillian Merron) gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1795-1796W.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Nature Conservation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the possibility of formulating a long-term conservation framework with a natural conservation area in the British Indian Ocean Territory. [274602]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Administration are committed to high standards of environmental protection in BIOT. There is a legislative framework, protection of sites and species of particular importance, and designated reserves (an area of Diego Garcia has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands). These have contributed to the very high levels of nature conservation achieved in the territory.

The FCO and BIOT Administration are keen to explore options for further enhancing levels of environmental protection in BIOT and welcome the interest expressed, for example, by the Chagos Environment Network who have recently proposed the establishment of a large-scale Marine Protected Area.

These issues have not been the subject of discussion with ministerial colleagues, but FCO officials have been asked to engage with officials in other Government Departments.

Colombia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the state of relations between the UK and Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [273847]

Gillian Merron: The UK maintains a constructive partnership with Colombia, working with the Colombian Government, international and civil society partners on a number of shared challenges including human rights, counter-narcotics, impunity and climate change.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave a written ministerial statement on UK policy towards Colombia on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS, which outlined changes to the way we deliver our objectives in Colombia, including giving priority to tackling impunity in the criminal justice system, and promoting the work of human rights and civil society organisations in Colombia.

Conflict Resolution

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the performance of the right hon. Dr Jack McConnell MSP in his capacity as the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms since his appointment in October 2008. [273825]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has made a valuable contribution to advancing the UK's peace building objectives since his appointment in October 2008. He has in particular engaged with the UN Secretariat and key stakeholders around the world to press for an ambitious UN Secretary-General report on peace building in the immediate aftermath of conflict.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in South Kivu; and if he will make a statement. [275316]

Gillian Merron: Over the last month the security situation in South Kivu has remained tense. Joint operations by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) military and UN peacekeepers against the Rwandan Hutu Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) militia have begun. For the time being, the FDLR continues to pose a serious threat to the civilian population in South Kivu, and to commit atrocities in eastern DRC.

I welcome the effort to apply pressure to the FDLR. We are providing support to help FDLR fighters who wish to leave the organisation to do so. Former members of other militias in South Kivu are entering into a process of integration into the DRC army.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274466]

Gillian Merron: We do not keep a record of the number of devices lost on a yearly basis.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1032W, on departmental public expenditure, what resource allocation was made for each overseas post for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [272913]

David Miliband: The following table gives net administration allocations by post for 2007-08 and 2008-09. Programme allocations are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£

Post name	Net budget 2007-08	2008-09
Abu Dhabi	1,572,681	1,752,716
Abuja	3,554,614	5,020,710
Accra	3,086,040	3,257,524
Addis Ababa	1,171,123	1,329,804
Alexandria	202,731	238,579
Algiers	1,533,265	2,188,879
Amman	2,017,393	3,067,325
Amsterdam	834,716	779,968
Anguilla	—	299,755
Ankara	2,948,293	4,465,499
Ashgabat	319,179	414,932
Asmara	124,650	183,269
Astana	851,062	1,115,209
Athens	3,270,021	3,830,127
Auckland	377,800	377,806
Baghdad	26,584,327	2,673,946
Bahrain	653,994	883,516
Baku	784,919	1,137,164
Bandar Seri Begawan	493,331	725,516
Bangkok	2,071,120	2,818,570
Banjul	503,026	562,103
Basra	6,800,947	1,426,582
Beirut	1,486,136	2,022,993
Belgrade	1,926,599	2,561,436
Belmopan	996,494	1,036,158
Berlin	9,619,290	11,174,075
Berne	2,080,823	3,022,511
Bogota	1,791,605	2,288,380
Bordeaux	92,591	87,580
Brasilia	2,820,941	4,511,063
Bratislava	720,791	846,555
Bridgetown	989,862	1,202,104
Brisbane	346,801	432,226
Brussels	1,759,722	1,769,060
Brussels Jmo	1,545,524	2,108,133
Brussels Ukdel	1,230,250	1,273,536
Brussels Ukrep	4,722,787	5,428,993
Bucharest	1,696,001	2,024,966
Budapest	1,769,921	2,084,513
Buenos Aires	1,992,059	2,285,505
Cairo	1,681,938	2,185,528
Canberra	3,826,469	4,708,828
Cape Town	667,062	698,572
Caracas	1,314,228	1,798,230
Castries	76,124	122,533
Chennai	1,118,356	1,175,587
Chisinau	383,987	442,085
Chongqing	701,261	761,355
Colombo (inc. Maldives)	983,532	1,198,960
Copenhagen (inc. Torshavn)	2,818,761	3,525,259
Dakar	404,312	521,654
Damascus	748,137	1,200,735
Dar Es Salaam	783,804	928,956
Dhaka	2,251,636	2,399,027
Doha	1,196,202	1,798,694
Dubai	2,469,473	3,266,203
Dublin	2,686,160	3,035,020
Dushanbe	426,892	555,239
Dusseldorf	3,171,526	3,781,535
Ekaterinburg	282,226	302,869
Erbil	—	140,569
Freetown	1,108,162	1,289,409
Gaborone	207,884	257,933
Geneva	2,785,634	3,760,260
Georgetown	555,005	601,409
Gibraltar	1,269,485	1,079,654
Grand Cayman	226,174	151,865
Grand Turk	305,617	317,317
Guangzhou	1,413,497	2,097,406
Guatemala City	1,010,725	730,975
Hanoi	611,542	728,040
Harare	1,487,040	1,815,506
Havana	1,080,012	1,158,045
Helsinki	1,809,797	2,087,428
Ho Chi Minh City	331,617	515,784
Hong Kong CG	4,639,855	4,705,475
Honiara	158,607	176,287
Islamabad	3,848,446	3,934,619
Istanbul	2,992,285	2,055,233
Jakarta	1,999,872	2,270,617
Jeddah	902,238	0
Jerusalem	1,349,103	1,938,662
Johannesburg	842,801	1,007,857
Kabul	12,169,820	19,635,051
Kampala	1,588,297	1,423,909
Karachi	822,293	851,778
Kathmandu	707,020	757,460
Khartoum	2,193,939	3,780,923
Kiev	1,489,357	2,365,230
Kigali	520,046	509,329
Kingston	1,787,526	2,640,442
Kinshasa	1,165,842	1,677,009
Kirkuk	1,390,059	0

£

Post name	Net budget 2007-08	2008-09
Kolkata	321,640	300,305
Kuala Lumpur	1,636,764	2,182,163
Kuwait	1,569,723	2,278,500
La Paz	345,724	482,107
Lagos (inc. Cotonou)	5,514,863	7,115,131
Lille	101,438	119,466
Lilongwe (inc. Blantyre)	488,178	497,066
Lima	1,117,531	1,486,548
Lisbon	2,139,305	2,489,812
Ljubljana	679,431	804,564
Luanda	1,205,953	1,421,398
Lusaka	898,246	1,019,562
Luxembourg	581,764	638,044
Lyon	80,207	88,686
Madrid	7,728,424	9,386,780
Manila	1,829,679	2,016,352
Maputo	786,037	789,291
Marseilles	77,506	63,600
Melbourne	590,268	739,641
Mexico City	2,818,773	2,912,994
Minsk	220,814	273,281
Montevideo	546,380	1,244,751
Montreal	278,223	173,676
Moscow	6,181,190	7,149,679
Mumbai	1,557,814	2,000,928
Munich	954,763	1,000,437
Muscat	1,097,759	1,521,012
Nairobi	2,824,968	3,328,947
New Delhi	7,447,508	7,824,391
New York Cg	2,361,293	0
Nicosia	2,195,677	2,922,541
Osaka	1,184,605	1,870,801
Oslo	2,047,093	2,327,855
Ottawa	3,696,031	3,257,247
Panama City	413,424	609,718
Paris	10,746,611	13,302,223
Peking (Beijing)	4,773,854	6,313,945
Perth	248,474	338,546
Phnom Penh	326,998	463,172
Plymouth	310,536	279,616
Podgorica	—	255,393
Port Louis	370,368	476,964
Port Moresby	299,819	490,659
Port Of Spain	1,138,262	1,188,935
Prague	1,582,009	2,073,835
Pretoria	2,737,135	3,744,963
Pristina	532,812	704,319
Pyongyang	189,743	220,053
Quito	444,535	544,209
Rabat	1,739,766	2,209,227
Rangoon	567,660	766,378
Reykjavik	507,994	415,063
Riga	576,851	782,674
Rio De Janeiro	1,176,852	1,671,389
Riyadh	2,256,078	4,218,700
Rome	7,280,184	8,979,533
San Jose	304,663	589,949
Sana'a	1,449,958	1,374,296

£

Post name	Net budget 2007-08	2008-09
Santiago	1,183,681	1,940,182
Santo Domingo	291,616	392,158
Sao Paulo	1,785,853	2,541,755
Sarajevo	858,826	974,585
Seoul	2,856,603	2,833,744
Shanghai	1,617,187	2,092,390
Singapore	2,322,457	3,225,627
Skopje	617,985	812,888
Sofia	1,070,516	1,113,034
St. George's	64,829	20,000
St. John's	132,290	66,409
St. Petersburg	828,538	972,964
Stanley	103,220	251,653
Stockholm	2,264,286	2,768,901
Strasbourg	201,803	216,288
Suva	590,919	674,896
Sydney	1,435,245	1,473,760
Taipei Rico	1,256,380	1,347,774
Tallinn	626,126	890,640
Tashkent	643,125	738,165
Tbilisi	607,777	905,533
Tehran	2,419,129	3,067,194
Tel Aviv	2,026,430	2,676,651
The Hague	2,377,310	2,481,914
Tirana	552,704	567,072
Tokyo	7,590,776	9,319,443
Toronto	1,169,826	1,256,037
Tortola	474,129	281,621
Tripoli	2,034,987	2,174,438
Tunis	814,700	980,533
UKMis New York	3,781,613	4,449,125
Ulaanbaatar	253,919	170,803
Valletta	695,316	804,351
Vancouver	375,147	647,884
Victoria	247,500	198,928
Vienna	3,488,089	3,959,201
Vilnius	626,692	859,001
Warsaw	2,180,512	2,535,063
Washington	17,375,714	23,212,645
Wellington	1,620,198	1,647,447
Windhoek	299,991	262,758
Yaounde	637,766	733,532
Yerevan	385,782	532,762
Zagreb	1,016,346	1,223,445

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275344]

Gillian Merron: Data on Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spend on products from recycled materials are not held centrally, and establishing the global proportion of the FCO's office supplies being made from recycled materials could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. A trawl of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO's) principal suppliers of office supplies in the UK, has identified that:

The FCO's A4 paper supplies are made from 100 per cent. recycled materials, and a number of more specialised paper products are made from 75 per cent. recycled materials;

80 per cent. of the FCO's bespoke print paper products from its in-house print facility are made from 100 per cent. recycled materials;

The FCO's contracted stationery supplier provides a range of products meeting certain environmental criteria, including but not exclusively, being made from recycled materials. Since 1 May 2008, 18.47 per cent. of the FCO's spend with this supplier has been on products which meet their criteria as being environmentally sound;

Chairs purchased by the FCO contain 50 per cent. recycled materials.

Diplomatic Service: Allowances

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1196W, on departmental pay, what the source of the security advice used to calculate the hardship element of the Diplomatic Service Compensation Allowance is. [275462]

Gillian Merron: The Diplomatic Service Compensation Allowance hardship allowance is based on scores supplied by an independent company, Employment Conditions Abroad (ECA). ECA score posts around the world in 16 different categories including personal security and socio-political tension, based on their own independent research and information derived from the annual location ranking survey completed by their member organisations. They reflect conditions for an average expatriate living in the city concerned. These scores are then re-weighted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (multiplied by 1.389) to reflect the additional security risk staff may face because of their higher profile as official Government representatives overseas.

In addition to ECA's security score, our own security advisers award points based on their assessment of the security threat to British diplomats and their families from terrorism, hostile intelligence activity and political violence.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which posts qualify civilian employees of his Department for the hardship element of the Diplomatic Service Compensation Allowance (DSCA); and what the monthly rate of DSCA hardship allowance paid to staff at each post is. [275463]

Gillian Merron: Each of the posts in the following table qualifies for DSCA hardship allowance. The list and the rates paid are revised annually. The accompanied rates are paid to an officer posted with their spouse/registered partner. Unaccompanied rates are paid to single officers or staff with a spouse/registered partner elsewhere. The rates are changed on 1 January every year.

	Accompanied	*Unaccompanied*	*Effective date*
Abidjan	8,919	4,460	1 January 2009
Abu Dhabi	1,517	759	1 January 2009
Abuja	14,804	7,402	1 January 2009
Accra	4,219	2,110	1 January 2009
Addis Ababa	8,919	4,460	1 January 2009
Al Khobar	7,957	3,979	1 January 2009
Alexandria	3,849	1,925	1 January 2009
Algiers	12,028	6,014	1 January 2009
Almaty	4,219	2,110	1 January 2009
Amman	2,221	1,110	1 January 2009
Ankara	3,849	1,925	1 January 2009
Ashgabat	6,144	3,072	1 January 2009
Asmara	8,438	4,219	1 January 2009
Astana	4,959	2,480	1 January 2009
Baghdad	0	27,683	1 January 2009
Bahrain	1,221	611	1 January 2009
Baku	3,479	1,739	1 January 2009
Bamako	6,144	3,072	1 January 2009
Bandar Seri Begawan	2,036	1,018	1 January 2009
Bangalore	4,959	2,480	1 January 2009
Bangkok	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
Banja Luka	3,109	1,554	1 January 2009
Banjul	4,589	2,295	1 January 2009
Basra	0	27,683	1 January 2009
Beijing	2,813	1,406	1 January 2009
Beirut	5,329	2,665	1 January 2009
Belgrade	5,700	2,850	1 January 2009
Belmopan	4,589	2,295	1 January 2009
Bogota	7,032	3,516	1 January 2009
Brasilia	2,813	1,406	1 January 2009
Bucharest	925	463	1 January 2009
Buenos Aires	1,517	759	1 January 2009
Bujumbura	9,919	4,959	1 January 2009
Cairo	7,032	3,516	1 January 2009
Cape Town	2,221	1,110	1 January 2009
Caracas	5,700	2,850	1 January 2009
Casablanca	3,109	1,554	1 January 2009
Castries	1,517	759	1 January 2009
Chennai	6,144	3,072	1 January 2009
Chisinau	5,700	2,850	1 January 2009
Chongqing	6,144	3,072	1 January 2009
Colombo	8,919	4,460	1 January 2009
Conakry	9,401	4,700	1 January 2009
Dakar	5,700	2,850	1 January 2009
Damascus	6,144	3,072	1 January 2009
Dar es Salaam	6,588	3,294	1 January 2009
Dhaka	12,583	6,292	1 January 2009
Doha	1,517	759	1 January 2009
Dubai	1,369	685	1 January 2009
Durban	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
Dushanbe	9,401	4,700	1 January 2009
Erbil	0	19,630	1 January 2009
Freetown	9,919	4,959	1 January 2009
Gaborone	1,221	611	1 January 2009
Georgetown	6,144	3,072	1 January 2009
Grand Turk	2,813	1,406	1 October 2008
Guangzhou	5,329	2,665	1 January 2009
Guatemala City	4,589	2,295	1 January 2009

	Accompanied	Unaccompanied	Effective date
Hanoi	4,589	2,295	1 January 2009
Harare	10,437	5,218	1 January 2009
Havana	4,589	2,295	1 January 2009
Ho Chi Minh City	5,700	2,850	1 January 2009
Honiara	7,957	3,979	1 January 2009
Islamabad	23,094	11,547	1 January 2009
Istanbul	2,221	1,110	1 January 2009
Jakarta	14804	7,402	1 January 2009
Jedda	7,032	3,516	1 January 2009
Jerusalem	3,849	1,925	1 January 2009
Johannesburg	1,851	925	1 January 2009
Juba	19,541	9,771	1 January 2009
Kabul	0	18,120	1 January 2009
Kampala	7,957	3,979	1 January 2009
Kandahar	0	18,831	1 January 2009
Karachi	26,647	13,324	1 January 2009
Kathmandu	7,476	3,738	1 January 2009
Khartoum	18,357	9,178	1 January 2009
Kiev	2,813	1,406	1 January 2009
Kigali	5,700	2,850	1 January 2009
Kingston	4,219	2,110	1 January 2009
Kinshasa	10,955	5,477	1 January 2009
Kolkata	7,957	3,979	1 January 2009
Kuala Lumpur	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
Kuwait	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
La Paz	3,109	1,554	1 January 2009
Lagos	15,396	7,698	1 January 2009
Lashkar Gar	0	20,962	1 January 2009
Lilongwe	5,700	2,850	1 January 2009
Lima	4,219	2,110	1 January 2009
Luanda	9,919	4,959	1 January 2009
Lusaka	6,144	3,072	1 January 2009
Manila	9,919	4,959	1 January 2009
Maputo	8,438	4,219	1 January 2009
Mexico City	3,479	1,739	1 January 2009
Minsk	5,329	2,665	1 January 2009
Monrovia	12,583	6,292	1 January 2009
Monterrey	2,036	1,018	1 January 2009
Montserrat	2,036	1,018	1 January 2009
Moscow	5,700	2,850	1 January 2009
Mumbai	7,032	3,516	1 January 2009
Muscat	1,369	685	1 January 2009
Nairobi	8,919	4,460	1 January 2009
N'Djamena	8,919	4,460	1 January 2009
New Delhi	7,957	3,979	1 January 2009
Nouakchott	7,032	3,516	1 January 2009
Nuku'alofa	4,589	2,295	1 January 2009
Panama	1,221	611	1 January 2009
Phnom Penh	7,957	3,979	1 January 2009
Pitcairn	1,851	925	1 January 2009
Podgorica	1,517	759	1 January 2009
Port Louis	1,517	759	1 January 2009
Port Moresby	8,919	4,460	1 January 2009
Port of Spain	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
Pretoria	2,036	1,018	1 January 2009
Pristina	3,849	1,925	1 January 2009
Pyongyang	10,955	5,477	1 January 2009
Quito	2,813	1,406	1 January 2009
Rabat	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
Rangoon	12,028	6,014	1 January 2009
Rio de Janeiro	2,221	1,110	1 January 2009
Riyadh	7,476	3,738	1 January 2009
San Jose	1,851	925	1 January 2009
Sana'a	14,249	7,124	1 January 2009
Santiago	777	389	1 January 2009
Santo Domingo	3,479	1,739	1 January 2009
Sao Paulo	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
Sarajevo	2,813	1,406	1 January 2009
Seoul	1,221	611	1 January 2009
Shanghai	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
Skopje	777	389	1 January 2009
Sofia	1,851	925	1 January 2009
St. Helena	740	370	1 January 2009
St. Petersburg	4,959	2,480	1 January 2009
Suva	5,329	2,665	1 January 2009
Taipei	3,665	833	1 January 2009
Tashkent	8,438	4,219	1 January 2009
Tbilisi	7,032	3,516	1 January 2009
Tehran	12,028	6,014	1 January 2009
Tel Aviv	2,517	1,258	1 January 2009
Tirana	4,219	2,110	1 January 2009
Tripoli	7,957	3,979	1 January 2009
Tristan da Cunha	925	463	1 January 2009
Tunis	1,221	611	1 January 2009
Ulaanbaatar	5,329	2,665	1 January 2009
Victoria	1,517	759	1 January 2009
Windhoek	1,369	685	1 January 2009
Yaounde	7,032	3,516	1 January 2009
Yekaterinburg	6,588	3,294	1 January 2009
Yerevan	3,479	1,739	1 January 2009

EU-Pakistan Summit

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* priorities and *(b)* objectives have been set for the EU-Pakistan summit. [273724]

David Miliband: The Government strongly support the proposed EU-Pakistan summit and continue to encourage the Czech presidency to set an ambitious agenda that will deliver tangible benefits to Pakistan. We believe the summit should focus on security, counter-terrorism, trade and building democracy.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in which the Government are a party *(a)* in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* in 1997. [274032]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold a record of the estimated average cost to the public purse of the Government's defence of applications in the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has been asked to review a case before the European Court of Human Rights involving the United Kingdom in the last 10 years; and what conclusion was reached in each case. [274035]

Caroline Flint: The Council of Europe (CoE) Committee of Ministers considers judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against the United Kingdom at its quarterly meetings for supervision of execution of judgments. Information about the cases considered at each meeting and the decisions taken is publicly available on the CoE Committee of Ministers' website at:

http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/execution/

European Union

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates he had *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings with the European Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region on the situation in the region in the last 12 months. [274803]

Gillian Merron: *[holding answer 13 May 2009]:* There have been no meetings between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the EU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Roeland van de Geer, in the last 12 months.

My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, met Mr. van de Geer on 28 May 2008 and on 4 September 2008. They also both attended the regional summit held by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in Nairobi on 7 November 2008.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274542]

Gillian Merron: Health and Safety considerations are an important factor in decisions about expenditure on the maintenance and improvement of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office estate and on the security and healthcare arrangements we put in place for our staff overseas.

Identifying the information on which elements of this expenditure are spent on compliance with the relevant health and safety standards would incur disproportionate cost.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Israeli Government and *(b)* the Palestinian authorities on the recent ceasefire in Gaza. [272999]

Bill Rammell: We are in close contact with both Israeli and Palestinian authorities about ways to improve the situation in Gaza.

In April 2009 my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to both his Israeli counterpart and Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad.

On 7 April 2009, I spoke to my Israeli counterpart about the importance of improving the situation in Gaza, among other issues.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* UN representatives, *(b)* members of the Quartet, and *(c)* his EU counterparts on the recent ceasefire in Gaza. [273013]

Bill Rammell: We are in close touch with the UN, US, Russia and our EU counterparts about the situation in Gaza. Most recently, Gaza was discussed in the context of the wider Middle East Peace Process at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 27 April 2009.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer from Lord Malloch-Brown to Lord Hannay of Chiswick of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 1248, what changes are to be made to the *(a)* number of and *(b)* level of funding for civilian secondees to conflict prevention and peacekeeping operations; what funding was allocated to civilian secondees in 2008-09; how many UK civilian secondees to each (i) country and (ii) operation there were in that year; and if he will make a statement. [271037]

David Miliband: In financial year (FY) 2009-10, the Government will provide 80 civilian and police secondees to discretionary, international peacekeeping operations compared with 127 in FY 2008-09. The following table sets out the number of civilian and police secondees by country and operation in FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10.

	Figures at end of 2008-09		*Prioritised figures for 2009-10*	
	Police	*Civilians*	*Police*	*Civilians*
EULEX Kosovo	45	18	17	15
EUSR/ICO Kosovo	0	4	0	4
EUPOL Afghanistan	9	1	9	1
EUMM Georgia	4	7	4	7
EUPM Bosnia	9	0	3	0
EUJUST LEX Iraq	0	4	0	4
ESDP Secretariat	2	1	1	1
EUBAM Rafah/ Gaza	0	1	0	1
EUBAM Moldova	0	1	0	1
EUCOPPS Palestine	0	2	0	2
EUSEC DRC	0	1	0	1

	Figures at end of 2008-09		Prioritised figures for 2009-10	
	Police	Civilians	Police	Civilians
EUSR South Caucasus	0	1	0	1
OSCE All Missions	0	15	0	6
UNAMID Sudan	1	1	1	1
Total	70	57	35	45

In FY 2008-09, civilian secondees to discretionary peacekeeping missions were funded from the Government's Peacekeeping Budget. We cannot provide an exact figure for civilian and police deployment costs in 2008-09. However, we estimate it to be some £16 million. In FY 2009-10, all discretionary peacekeeping activity will be funded from the £171 million available for discretionary conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping activity, as set out in my written statement to the House of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17-18WS. It is possible that further resources, for example from the reserve of that discretionary fund, will be made available during the course of the year depending on priorities.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have met representatives of the Governments of (i) India, (ii) Iran, (iii) China, (iv) Pakistan, (v) Syria and (vi) Russia to discuss the conflict in Sri Lanka in the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [272924]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 6 May 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had regular discussions with a range of international partners on the situation in Sri Lanka, including Indian Foreign Minister Mukherjee. Our officials have had discussions with international partners, including members of the UN Security Council.

The Foreign Secretary made an oral statement in the House on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1048-50W, following his visit to Sri Lanka on 29 April 2009 to meet with the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the avoidance of civilian deaths among the Tamil population in the north of Sri Lanka. [273324]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka on 29 April 2009 with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, for talks with the Sri Lankan Government on the ongoing conflict and the grave humanitarian impact. In his discussions with President Rajapakse and Foreign Minister Bogollogama, the Foreign Secretary made clear that the protection of civilians must be paramount.

Following his visit, the Foreign Secretary gave an oral statement to the House on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1048-1050.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the International Criminal Court on the status of Sudanese President al-Bashir. [275082]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* Following the announcement of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision to issue an arrest warrant for President Bashir on counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity on 4 March 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement supporting the ICC as an independent judicial body, urging the Government of Sudan to co-operate with the court, and reiterating UK support to peace in Sudan. We have reiterated this message in contacts with international partners and in other public statements. As with all state parties to the Rome Statute, we have regular contact with the ICC on a range of court business.

Torture: British Nationality

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals have claimed to his Department's staff in the last three years that they had been tortured overseas; and how many such cases have been investigated. [273705]

Gillian Merron: The UK is opposed to torture and is one of the most active countries in the world in the fight to eradicate it. Ensuring the welfare of British nationals detained abroad is one of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's highest consular priorities, and any allegation of abuse or torture is taken particularly seriously.

Since 1 April 2005 we have collated statistics on the number of cases where we have, with the permission of the British national concerned, raised concerns with the detaining authorities over allegations of torture or abuse. These are as follows:

	Number of allegations raised
April-December 2005	39
January-December 2006	69
January-December 2007	75
January2008-March 2009	60

Our case files also record all instances where UK nationals have approached departmental staff overseas claiming to have been mistreated overseas. Until this month we did not centrally collate these records, and to extract this information would incur a disproportionate cost. However, since May 2009 we have introduced a new system to record the total number of cases of mistreatment raised with us anywhere in the world, and we expect the first data to be available in October 2009.

While we cannot conduct investigations in another sovereign country ourselves, the objective of our representations to foreign Governments is to end any ongoing mistreatment, and have the incident investigated and the perpetrators of any abuse brought to justice.

United Arab Emirates: Torture

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of alleged video evidence of acts of torture by uniformed police and others in the United Arab Emirates. [272797]

Bill Rammell: In addition to the two questions asked by the hon. Member, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has to date received one letter from a member of the public on this subject.

Yemen: Terrorism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the Government's programme of counter-terrorism capacity-building in Yemen. [273723]

David Miliband: Counter terrorism (CT) capacity-building forms part of the Government's broader engagement with the Yemeni Government. Our CT capacity-building programme is progressing, and includes work to help counter radicalisation and improve the capability of law enforcement agencies to counter terrorism. We are co-ordinating with international partners and multilateral organisations to develop a self-sustaining Yemeni capability to tackle the terrorist threat.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of white Zimbabwean farmers who have been deprived of their land in each of the last five years. [273109]

Gillian Merron: The majority of white Zimbabwean farmers were evicted from their land between 2000 and 2002, during which period farming organisations in Zimbabwe estimate that numbers fell from between 5,000-6,000 to approx 2,000. Since 2002 the rate of evictions has slowed. Many of the remaining farmers have been forced to keep a low profile, so maintaining accurate records of farm ownership has been challenging for farming organisations. However, they estimate that approximately 700 white Zimbabwean farmers have been evicted since 2004.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1088W, on abortion, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document on the file held by his Department covering the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2005-06 and 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [270592]

Dawn Primarolo: A copy of the file has been placed in the Library.

Breast Cancer: Ethnic Minorities

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on rates of breast cancer among each ethnic minority group. [274774]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not directly commissioned research on the incidence of breast cancer among ethnic minority groups. A relevant study undertaken by the Thames Cancer Registry has however been recently published ("Breast cancer incidence, stage, treatment and survival in ethnic groups in South East England", British Journal of Cancer, 6 January 2009); and the National Cancer Research Institute's (NCRI) National Cancer Intelligence Network plans to publish an ethnicity and cancer report in June 2009. The report will include incidence and survival figures for ethnic groups in England in relation to selected cancer sites.

The Department funds the regional cancer registries in England. The NCRI is a partnership organisation in which the Department plays a key role.

Cardiovascular System: Health Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to reduce health inequalities in *(a)* prevalence and *(b)* access to care for (i) cardiac and (ii) vascular disease. [275382]

Ann Keen: The Government have made tackling health inequalities a top priority, and the most comprehensive programme ever in this country is in place to address them. For coronary heart disease (CHD), the target to reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease (CHD, stroke and related diseases) by 40 per cent. in people under 75 by 2010 was met five years early and the mortality rate has now fallen by 44 per cent. when compared to the 1995-97 baseline. Death rates from CHD between the most deprived areas and the national average has narrowed and we are on track to deliver the 2010 target of at least a 40 per cent. reduction in the gap.

From April 2009, the national health service is being asked to implement a systematic and integrated vascular risk assessment and management programme—the NHS Health Check programme. This will provide a mechanism to identify earlier people at risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease and support them to reduce their risk through the provision of lifestyle advice and interventions, and smoking cessation, and preventative medication such as statins. The programme has significant potential to narrow inequalities and many primary care trusts (PCTs) are using it as a major tool in tackling health inequalities.

Other mechanisms available include the work of the National Health Inequalities Support Team in spearhead areas (the areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators), the Health Inequalities Intervention Tool, jointly developed with the Association of Public Health Observatories that support PCTs and local authorities in local priority setting (including prioritising vascular conditions), planning and commissioning of services and the work of the Improvement Foundation Programme in improving early presentation of cardiovascular disease in the spearhead areas. This is in addition to the work that PCTs are doing to address some of the risk factors

for vascular disease such as making available smoking cessation, weight management and physical activity programmes in a way that is accessible to the groups within the population who most need them.

Dementia

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on research into the *(a)* causes and *(b)* treatment of dementia in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [275887]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 640W.

Diabetes: Costs

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treatment of diabetes and diabetes-related conditions in the last 12 months. [275848]

Ann Keen: Estimates of national health service expenditure on diabetes are available from the programme budgeting returns.

Data for 2007-08 are not yet available. However, the following table shows the estimated gross level expenditure for diabetes from 2004-05 to 2006-07 in England. These figures include primary care trust, Department of Health (DH), strategic health authority and special health authority expenditure. It should be noted that these figures do not include prevention expenditure or general medical services/primary medical services expenditure.

	Diabetes expenditure (£000)	*DH gross expenditure (£000)*	*Diabetes as a proportion of gross expenditure (percentage)*
2004-05	687,402	71,922,179	1.0
2005-06	866,000	80,185,241	1.1
2006-07	1,043,021	84,193,209	1.2

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the *(a)* Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and *(b)* Food Standards Agency have reviewed the effects on trade in food supplements and herbal remedies of the coming into force of the Mutual Recognition Regulation (EC) 764/2008; and if he will make a statement. [273975]

Dawn Primarolo: Decisions on whether products should be classified as herbal medicinal products, and on the authorisation of herbal medicinal products, are the subject of harmonisation measures at Community level and so are not subject to the requirements of Mutual Recognition Regulation (EC) No 764/2008. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency does not therefore expect the regulation to have a significant impact on the trade in herbal remedies.

We are advised by the Food Standards Agency that measures taken by the authorities of member states pursuant to provisions of food law of general application are explicitly exempted from the requirements of the regulation. These exemptions relate to measures taken under Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 (General Food Law) in relation to risks to health arising from food, and measures taken under Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (official feed and food controls) in ensuring that food business operators remedy non-compliance with food law. The European Commission is producing guidance on the application of the Mutual Recognition Regulation to different foodstuffs, including food supplements.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he last met representatives of the *(a)* Proprietary Association of Great Britain and *(b)* Health Food Manufacturers Association to discuss the EU Food Supplements Directive; [275061]

(2) what recent progress has been made in discussions on the implementation of the EU Food Supplements Directive; and if he will make a statement. [275096]

Dawn Primarolo: I met with representatives of the Health Food Manufacturers Association on 22 January 2009 and with the Proprietary Association of Great Britain on 1 April 2009 to discuss matters relating to the Food Supplements Directive 2002/46/EC.

A meeting of the ad hoc technical group of member states, established to undertake scientific modelling on the setting of maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements, was held on 24 April 2009. At the meeting, member states presented the results of work they had carried out using the scientific models proposed by the European Commission and their respective national data on the intake of vitamins and minerals from the diet.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when Ministers in his Department next plan to raise with the European Health Commissioner *(a)* the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements and *(b)* the extension of existing European legislation to include other categories of substance; [275128]

(2) what information his Department holds on the outcome of the recent consultation by the European Commission on the possible extension of the scope of the EU Food Supplements Directive to include substances other than vitamins and minerals; what discussions *(a)* Ministers and officials and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency have had at EU level on such an extension; what his Department's policy is on such an extension; and if he will make a statement; [275137]

(3) what assessment has been made of the implications for manufacturers of supplements containing *(a)* botanical ingredients, *(b)* glucosamine, *(c)* creatine and *(d)* other ingredients of the implementation of proposals to extend the scope of the EU Food Supplements Directive. [275152]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no current plans for Health Ministers to raise the issues of the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements or the extension of the Food Supplements Directive 2002/46/EC to substances other than vitamins and minerals with the European Health Commissioner.

Article 4(8) of the Food Supplements Directive placed an obligation on the European Commission to submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the necessity for specific rules in relation to the use of substances in food supplements other than vitamins and minerals. This report was published in December 2008 and the Commission's conclusion was that the current legislative framework is sufficient to regulate the use of substances other than vitamins and minerals in food supplements and that additional legislation in this area is not justified at this stage. No additional information is held by the Department or the Food Standards Agency in relation to the report.

The Commission's report was placed on the agenda for an exchange of views at a meeting of the General Food Law Section of the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health held on 27 March 2009. At the meeting, the United Kingdom, represented by the Food Standards Agency, supported the position the Commission had expressed in its report and the Commission reiterated its position. Health Ministers and Departmental officials have had no discussions at European level on this issue.

There are therefore no proposals currently under consideration to extend the scope of the Food Supplements Directive to substances other than vitamins and minerals. No assessment has been made of the implications of such an extension for manufacturers of supplements containing botanical ingredients, glucosamine, creatine or other ingredients.

Drugs: Babies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many babies were born with a diagnosed addiction to drugs *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available; [272786]

(2) how many babies received treatment for *(a)* drug addiction and *(b)* alcohol problems arising from their mother's use of such substances during pregnancy (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available. [272789]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of babies treated for alcohol problems arising from their mother's use of alcohol are not collected centrally.

The following tables show the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the primary or secondary diagnosis was either neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction or withdrawal from therapeutic use of drugs in newborns. The baby is not diagnosed as addicted, but as withdrawing from the mother's addiction.

It is not possible to provide information on the type of drug the newborn child is withdrawing from.

It is unclear whether there has been a real rise in the number of babies born suffering from the mother's addiction, as we suspect that a better awareness of drug misuse has lead to an increase of awareness and identification. Improved engagement with pregnant drug addicted women by the national health service and improvements in treatment for drug addiction may have allowed more women to conceive and/or carry a pregnancy to full term.

Count of cases (finished consultant birth episodes) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs for the period 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Total finished consultant birth episodes
2007-08	1,230
2006-07	1,211
2005-06	1,210
2004-05	1,192
2003-04	1,156
2002-03	1,054
2001-02	933
2000-01	926
1999-2000	924
1998-99	909
1997-98	751

Count of cases (finished consultant episodes) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by primary care trust (PCT) of residence for the period 2007-08

Current PCT of residence description	*Total finished consultant birth episodes*
Unknown	575
Bromley PCT	*
Barnet PCT	*
Hillingdon PCT	*
Enfield PCT	*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	*
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	*
Tower Hamlets PCT	*
Newham PCT	*
Haringey Teaching PCT	*
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	7
Herefordshire PCT	*
North Tyneside PCT	*
Hartlepool PCT	*
North Tees Teaching PCT	*
North Lincolnshire PCT	12
Nottingham City PCT	*
Salford PCT	9
Stockport PCT	*
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	*
Luton PCT	11
Rotherham PCT	6
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	14
Blackpool PCT	8
Bolton PCT	*
Ealing PCT	*
Warrington PCT	*
Oldham PCT	7
Calderdale PCT	*
Barnsley PCT	*
Bury PCT	*
Brent Teaching PCT	*
Camden PCT	*
Islington PCT	7
Sunderland Teaching PCT	*
Southampton City PCT	*
Medway PCT	8
Westminster PCT	*
Southwark PCT	*
Lewisham PCT	*
Tameside and Glossop PCT	*
Brighton and Hove City PCT	9

Count of cases (finished consultant episodes) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by primary care trust (PCT) of residence for the period 2007-08

Current PCT of residence description	*Total finished consultant birth episodes*
South Birmingham PCT	*
Shropshire County PCT	*
Walsall Teaching PCT	*
Sutton and Merton PCT	6
North Somerset PCT	*
Telford and Wrekin PCT	*
Wolverhampton City PCT	*
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	7
Leeds PCT	31
Kirklees PCT	*
Wakefield District PCT	11
Sheffield PCT	15
Derbyshire County PCT	9
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	10
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	*
Redbridge PCT	*
Waltham Forest PCT	*
County Durham PCT	*
Cumbria Teaching PCT	*
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	6
Central Lancashire PCT	8
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	12
Sefton PCT	*
Wirral PCT	*
Liverpool PCT	11
Halton and St. Helens PCT	7
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	8
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	7
Manchester PCT	17
North Yorkshire and York PCT	*
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	*
Hull Teaching PCT	*
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	21
South East Essex PCT	*
Bedfordshire PCT	17
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	*
Surrey PCT	*
West Sussex PCT	*
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	*
Hastings and Rother PCT	*
West Kent PCT	*
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	6
Leicester City PCT	12
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	8
Dudley PCT	6
Sandwell PCT	9
Birmingham East and North PCT	8
South Staffordshire PCT	*
Worcestershire PCT	*
Warwickshire PCT	*
Peterborough PCT	*
Cambridgeshire PCT	*
Norfolk PCT	*
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	*
Suffolk PCT	6
West Essex PCT	*
North East Essex PCT	9
South West Essex PCT	*
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	*
Hampshire PCT	7
Buckinghamshire PCT	9
Oxfordshire PCT	*
Berkshire West PCT	11
Berkshire East PCT	7
Bristol PCT	33
Wiltshire PCT	*
Dorset PCT	*
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	24
Devon PCT	*
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	*
Powys LHB	*
Northumberland Care Trust	*
Torbay Care Trust	8
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	11
Total	1,230

Notes:

ICD-10 diagnosis codes used:

P96.1 Neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction.

P96.2 Withdrawal symptoms form therapeutic use of drugs in newborn.

Low numbers

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk).

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Epilepsy

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken in response to the finding of its Workforce Issues discussion paper of 2006 on the adequacy of numbers of medical care staff with training and expertise in epilepsy. [275897]

Ann Keen: Local national health service organisations are best placed to determine the workforce they need to deliver high quality service for patients. The Department is committed to supporting the NHS to do this by ensuring information such as supply and demand of medical practitioners with epilepsy training is well understood throughout the NHS, and that workforce planning and education and training decisions reflect this.

The NHS Next Stage Review document 'A High Quality Workforce' outlined improvements for the workforce planning system, including a Centre for Workforce Intelligence and Professional Advisory Boards to provide expert research, analysis and co-ordinated clinical advice to the NHS.

This will help to ensure that the NHS has the right workforce with the right skills to deliver high quality care for all patients.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department makes available for people diagnosed with epilepsy on the *(a)* risk factors for and *(b)* prevention of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. [275898]

Ann Keen: Detailed information on epilepsy, and the risk factors associated with sudden unexpected death in epilepsy, is made available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Epilepsy/Pages/Complications.aspx

Food: Labelling

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the cost to the food industry of implementation of the EU Nutrition Labelling Directive. [275139]

Dawn Primarolo: In line with good regulation principles the Food Standards Agency produces impact assessments to gauge the costs/benefits associated with proposed nutrition labelling legislation. These impact assessments are developed with input from all stakeholders including the food industry and are updated regularly to take into account the latest developments for new European Union legislation in this area. The latest draft impact assessment for Commission Directive 2008/100/EC is available at:

www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2009/draftfoodlabelnutdecengregs

The European Commission proposal for a new regulation on the provision of food information for consumers is available at:

www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2008/infoprovision

Health Education: Influenza

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he has allocated for expenditure on material to inform citizens about swine influenza. [273841]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of advertising and publicity activity across the United Kingdom on swine influenza, including the swine influenza information phone line, is approximately £7.9 million to date.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collects on products purchased by NHS trusts to tackle the spread of infectious diseases in order to monitor control of diseases spread in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [275637]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information centrally on products purchased by national health service trusts. Decisions on what products to purchase for the purposes set out in the question are for local management to make.

Influenza

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of cases of influenza in the UK in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available. [274751]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the actual numbers of people in the United Kingdom who have contracted influenza are not collected.

Surveillance information on cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) is collected by the Royal College of General Practitioners. Information for the 2008-09 season was collected as rates of new cases of ILI per 100,000 general practitioner (GP) population, on a weekly basis in the flu season from 29 September 2008 to 12 April 2009. The peak weekly rate in 2008-09 was 68.5 new cases of ILI per 100,000 in the third week of December. These levels for the flu season 2008-09 are considered moderate levels of influenza activity. This information relates to England and Wales.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of abolishing prescription charges. [275479]

Dawn Primarolo: For the period April 2007 to March 2008, the revenue raised from prescription charges collected by pharmacists and appliance contractors and from prescription prepayment certificate fees was £432 million. In addition, dispensing doctors collect charges which are retained by primary care trusts and not collected centrally. Abolishing prescription charges in England would result in the loss of income available to the national health service.

Radiography: Manpower

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to combat the shortage of qualified sonographers. [275884]

Ann Keen: The national health service is best placed to determine the workforce it needs to deliver high quality service for patients. The Department is committed to supporting the NHS to do this by ensuring information such as supply and demand of sonographers is well understood throughout the NHS, and that workforce planning and education and training decisions reflect this.

For example, the Department and NHS Workforce Review Team work to produce a list of shortage occupations for the Migration Advisory Committee. Registered therapeutic radiographers and sonographers are included in the list, which comprises skilled occupations where there are shortages that can sensibly be filled by enabling employers to recruit migrants from outside the European Economic Area (EEA).

The NHS Next Stage Review document "A High Quality Workforce" outlined improvements for the workforce planning system, including a Centre for Workforce Intelligence and Professional Advisory Boards

to provide expert research, analysis and co-ordinated clinical advice to the NHS. A copy has been placed in the Library.

This will help to ensure that the NHS has the right workforce with the right skills to deliver high quality care for all patients.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Young People

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under 16 years old were diagnosed with *(a)* gonorrhoea, *(b)* chlamydia, *(c)* syphilis, *(d)* herpes and *(e)* genital warts in each of the last five years. [272349]

Dawn Primarolo: Number of selected sexually transmitted infections (STI) diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics and in the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) in England, in those under the age of 16 for 2003 to 2008 are given in the following table.

STI	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
GUM clinics (under 16 years)						
Chlamydia	1,372	1,367	1,315	1,307	1,530	n/a
Gonorrhoea	322	261	230	199	224	n/a
Syphilis	3	3	17	8	6	n/a
Genital herpes	151	142	140	143	215	n/a
Genital warts	574	584	515	617	762	n/a
NCSP (15 years only)						
Chlamydia	[1]52	283	467	628	1,176	2,020

Notes:
1. Data for 2003 consist of information reported for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 December 2003.
2. *Notes on GUM data:*
(a) The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
(b) The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
(c) The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
(d) Data are unavailable for 2008.
3. *Notes on NCSP data:*
(a) The NCSP has been phased in since 1 April 2003 with all 152 primary care trusts (PCTs) reporting data to the programme since March 2008. Therefore note that numbers of diagnoses have risen substantially as an increasing proportion of the target population have been tested.
(b) NSCP data are presented by PCT of residence and exclude those resident outside of England.
(c) The data from the NCSP Core Dataset are for positive chlamydia screens conducted within the NCSP outside of GUM clinics only and include positive screens made by the Boots pathfinder project.
(d) The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
(e) Data include chlamydia diagnoses for males, females, and those with unknown/ unspecified sex.
(f) Data presented are based on tests with confirmed positive diagnoses only.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns. NCSP.

Swine Flu

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will fast-track approval by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs of pathogen inactivation for blood products to ensure the UK blood supply is (A)H1N1-free; and if he will make a statement. [274791]

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to protect the UK from the A(H1N1) virus; if he will fast-track approval by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs of pathogen inactivation for blood products to ensure that the UK blood supply is (A)H1N1-free; and if he will made a statement. [274717]

Dawn Primarolo: The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs is currently reviewing risk-reduction measures for platelets, which include pathogen inactivation. There are currently no pathogen inactivation systems available for red blood cells, the most commonly prescribed blood component. Current expert advice is that risk of transmission of influenza through blood components is low, although the position is being kept under review.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what quantities of pathogen inactivated (A)H1N1-free blood products are available in the UK; what plans he has to adopt pathogen inactivation for all civilian and military blood products if the World Health Organisation designates the (A)H1N1 outbreak a pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [274792]

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what quantities of pathogen-inactivated (A)H1N1-free blood products are stockpiled in the UK; what plans his Department has to adopt pathogen inactivation for all civilian and military blood products if the World Health Organisation designates the (A)H1N1 outbreak a pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [274720]

Dawn Primarolo: Red cells are the most commonly prescribed blood component. There are no pathogen inactivation systems currently available for red cells. Risk-reduction measures for platelets, which include pathogen inactivation, are currently being reviewed by the Advisory Committee of the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs. It is anticipated that this review will be completed shortly. Plasma imported from the United States of America for use in the under-16s is pathogen inactivated. Current expert advice is that risk of transmission of influenza through blood components is low, although the position is being kept under review.

Torbay Hospital: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to Torbay hospital to tackle *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* other similar infections in the latest period for which figures are available. [275445]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs) to cover hospital and community health services, prescribing costs and primary medical services. It is for PCTs to decide what services they should commission (such as specific hospital services), in the light of local needs and circumstances, and to meet the health care needs of the local populations they serve.

To support improvements in the national health service in reducing health care associated infections, there is comprehensive spending review funding of £270 million per year by 2010-11. This funding will be reflected in the national tariff uplift.

This includes £130 million per year by 2010-11 for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus screening for all elective admissions from April 2009, and for all emergency admissions by 2010-11, as stated in "Our NHS Our Future", published on 4 October 2007. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the merits of establishing a national indicator for tuberculosis infection. [274798]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Next Stage Review considered all aspects of health care including tuberculosis and the need to set new targets. It introduced no new national targets, to ensure that the national health service continues to focus on the small number of targets in the NHS Operating Framework. Where the incidence of tuberculosis is a local issue, primary care trusts are empowered to deal with it.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anabolic Steroids

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on the classification of anabolic steroids. [274326]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* Anabolic steroids are controlled as Class C drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Government have accepted the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs recommendation to control a further 24 anabolic steroids and two non-steroidal agents (growth promoters) as Class C drugs and Schedule 4 Part 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 so as not to preclude legitimate use on prescription. A formal, public consultation on this proposal will be published shortly.

Crime Prevention: Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 5.2 of the Home Office Annual Report 2007-08, what the crime reduction resource budget has been spent on in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [273530]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The expenditure figures in Table 5.2 of the Home Office Annual Report 2007-08 reflect those in the HM Treasury database as reported in the Main and Supplementary Estimates 2007-08 and approved by Parliament. To remain consistent with the figures approved by Parliament, information in the Annual Report was grouped under the Strategic Objectives published by the Home Office in February 2008.

The expenditure identified in the table as dedicated to crime reduction resource covered a wide range of locally determined and national interventions aimed at tackling crime and antisocial behaviour. It formed an important contribution, along with investment in the Police Service, towards the delivery of an 18 per cent. reduction in crime between 2002-03 and 2007-08 as measured by the British Crime Survey. Over the same period, this expenditure also helped to secure a 24 per cent. reduction in crime within the 40 high crime areas. A detailed breakdown of expenditure by activity could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Demonstrations: Injuries

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were injured in the course of policing public protests in the last 12 months. [273317]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Google: Data Protection

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effects on privacy of Google's Latitude tracking system; and if she will make a statement. [265562]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 (PECR) apply to location based services including Google Latitude. Regulation 14 requires that traffic data can be processed only for a value added service with the user or subscriber's consent. Possible breaches of privacy should initially be reported to the service provider and failing this to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can investigate as they have responsibility for enforcement of the regulations.

Immigration

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much and what proportion of its section 17 budget Gloucestershire county council has spent in relation to the case with Home Office reference G1082747; and if she will make a statement. [274728]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The Home Office does not hold the information requested.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the Chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Commission was

appointed, and by whom; what process was followed in the appointment; and what qualifications the Chairman has; [274022]

(2) when each serving commissioner of the Independent Police Complaints Commission was appointed, and by whom; what process was followed in each appointment; and what qualifications each has. [274023]

Mr. Coaker: The chair was originally appointed on 1 February 2003 and was reappointed for a term of five years on 1 February 2008. This is a Crown appointment. He was appointed following a selection process in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) code of practice. The chair of the IPCC must never have served as a police officer nor have worked for any of the organisations over which the IPCC has jurisdiction. Further information on the chairman's background can be found on the IPCC website at:

www.ipcc.gov.uk

On first appointment, all commissioners underwent an external selection process, including assessment and interview, in accordance with the OCPA code of practice. Those commissioners re-appointed last year were appointed in line with the OCPA code of practice.

Commissioners come from a wide range of backgrounds and by law they must never have served as a police officer nor have worked for any of the organisations over which the IPCC has jurisdiction. Further information on the individual backgrounds of current commissioners can be found on the IPCC website at:

www.ipcc.gov.uk

Please see table:

Commissioner	*First appointed*	*Re-appointed*
Deborah Glass (deputy chair)	1 April 2004	1 September 2008
Len Jackson (deputy chair)	1 October 2003	1 October 2008
Tom Davies	1 October 2003	1 October 2008
Rebecca Marsh	15 September 2003	15 September 2008
Amerdeep Somal	1 September 2003	1 September 2008
Nicholas Long	1 September 2003	1 September 2008
Mike Franklin	1 September 2003	1 September 2008
Naseem Malik	1 October 2003	1 October 2008
Gary Garland	1 October 2003	1 October 2008
Rachel Cerfontyne	1 May 2009	—

Two non-executive commissioners are due to be appointed shortly, following open competition in accordance with the OCPA code of practice.

Internet: Monitoring

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the cost of implementing the Mastering the Internet Project; and if she will make a statement. [274069]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) continues to invest to maintain its capabilities in the face of growth in internet-based communications. The use of internet technologies and skills are one of the greatest challenges GCHQ has to master in order to deliver intelligence in accordance with its statutory purposes set out in the Intelligence Services Act 1994 (section 3). In the interests of national security detailed figures on Security and Intelligence Agency expenditure are not made public, but are subject to parliamentary scrutiny through the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC). The ISC's annual report for 2007-08 was published in March 2009.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what budget has been allocated for security technology for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and whether this allocation is drawn from the Olympic security budget; [273215]

(2) which companies will provide security technology for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; [273250]

(3) whether any technological security systems are being created for the purpose of security for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [273252]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is committed to the delivery of a safe and secure 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Work is continuing to finalise the plans for the provision for policing and wider security within the overall funding envelope of £600 million. This funding is separate from the ODA budget for security and the provision that LOCOG has set aside for in-venue security.

Our strategy for 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is to ensure that security technology is proven, reliable and effective. This means that we do not currently envisage developing new technology specifically for the Games. Any decisions regarding the use of technology will need to take account of the operational needs of the police and other security agencies; affordability within the total funding envelope; and the need to secure value for money. These factors will inform decision-making regarding the appointment of security technology companies.

Police Stations: Access

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission an opinion poll in each major conurbation on the attitudes to the provision of public access to police stations. [275669]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* The management of the police estate, the allocation of resources and local surveys and or public consultations are matters for each police authority and chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs to determine the demand for access to police stations.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the proportion of the working time of *(a)* all police forces in England and *(b)* Avon and Somerset Constabulary which was spent on (i) different types of non-frontline duties, (ii) frontline duties spent on

incident-related paperwork and (iii) frontline duties not spent on incident-related paperwork in each year since 1997. [274404]

Mr. Coaker: The figures for England and Wales are given in the table. Figures for individual forces should be requested from the force in question.

Table 1: Front-line policing, incident-related paperwork, and other activities, by year, for England and Wales[1]

	Front-line policing (FLP)	*All other activities*	*Incident-related paperwork*	*Percentage FLP excluding incident-related paperwork*
2003-04	63.6	36.4	10.3	53.3
2004-05	62.3	37.7	9.9	52.4
2005-06	63.6	36.4	10.8	52.8
2006-07	64.2	35.8	11.4	52.8
2007-08	64.9	35.1	12.4	52.5

[1] Data for Staffordshire are not available for 2007-08 and these figures therefore exclude Staffordshire.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Independent Police Complaints Commission on the disclosure of information between a police force and a complainant since January 2008; and if she will make a statement. [273871]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary has not had any such discussions with the IPCC.

The Police Reform Act 2002 sets out the responsibilities of the IPCC and Chief Officers in keeping complainants informed and in the disclosure of information.

The Home Office has no role in the disclosure of information between a police force and a complainant.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many serving police officers at each rank in each police force have received words of advice by a senior officer following an investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since 2004; [273880]

(2) what definition of words of advice issued in a disciplinary context her Department uses; what representations on the definition she has received since June 2007; and if she will make a statement. [273881]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold a central record of outcomes of disciplinary action. This is a matter for the Chief Officer of each force.

The phrase "words of advice" is not defined in the current disciplinary regulations (Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008), nor was it used in the preceding regulations: the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2004.

Under the previous disciplinary arrangements, the term 'words of advice' was used in the Home Office Guidance on 'Unsatisfactory Performance, Complaints and Misconduct Procedures' to refer to a managerial method for dealing with allegations of misconduct.

Under the current regulations (the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008) one possible outcome from a formal disciplinary meeting is management advice. Management advice is defined in the regulations to mean "management action imposed following misconduct proceedings or an appeal meeting".

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on the number of complaints that have been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in each police force in England since the IPCC was established; [274012]

(2) what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on the complaints made to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) that have been upheld since the establishment of the IPCC; and if she will make a statement; [274013]

(3) what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on the number of complaints that have been made against police officers in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex in each year since 1997; and what action was taken against each officer concerned when complaints were upheld. [274014]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not carried out any research into the number of complaints nationally, by force area, or more locally made against police officers, and has no plans to do so. Responsibility for the guardianship of the police complaints system is the statutory responsibility of the IPCC.

As part of that role, the IPCC analyses and publishes statistics detailing the number and type of complaints made by members of the public and also their outcomes. These reports can be accessed via the IPCC website on www.ipcc.gov.uk. In addition, the IPCC regularly collates and disseminates best practice through its "Learning the Lessons" bulletins, which are also published on its website.

In its 15th report—Independent Police Complaints Commission—published on 31 March 2009, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) recommended that the Home Office should clarify who is responsible for monitoring the implementation of IPCC recommendations. Discussions are already underway between the IPCC, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and police authorities on introducing an appropriate system.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the police grant funding for Essex Police Authority was in 2008-09; how much is proposed for 2009-10; and if she will make a statement; [275602]

(2) how much funding was allocated per head of population to Essex Police Authority in 2008-09; how much is planned for 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [275601]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the

relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Essex police authority total grant funding 2008-09 and 2009-10

	Total grant funding[1,2] (£ million)	Resident population (million)
2008-09	197.1	1.69
2009-10	202.2	1.70

[1] Total grant funding comprises: General Grant (Home Office Police Grant and Communities and Local Government Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates) and Specific Grants include—Crime Fighting Fund, Neighbourhood Policing Fund/Community Support Officers, Basic Command Unit Fund and Special Formula Grant (Rural Policing Fund, Special Priority Payments, Forensic (DNA) Grant, London/SE Allowance and Integrated Police Learning and Development Programme) and Capital Provision.

[2] Total Grant funding excludes the following for comparison purposes: Dedicated Security Grant, Pensions Deficit Grant and some minor grant flows.

Sources:

1. Grants: Home Office
2. Population: Office of National Statistics, mid year population estimates and projections as used in the police funding formula

Police: Telephone Services

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to limit the use by police forces of 0845 non-emergency telephone numbers. [273836]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* It is a matter for individual police forces what number they use for non-emergency telephone contact and the Home Office has no plans to limit the use of 0845 numbers operated by police forces.

Terrorism

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the cost of the revised Contest strategy; and if she will make a statement. [275494]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* "The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism" set out details of Government spending on counter terrorism and intelligence. It is forecast to rise from £2.5 billion in 2008-09 to £3.5 billion in 2010-11. This budget is wider than just expenditure on the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

Breaking down this budget by specific counter-terrorism and intelligence activities, beyond what is published already, would reveal our capabilities and details of the Security and Intelligence Agencies spending. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal these details.

Transport: Personal records

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects to announce proposals on the collection of advance passenger data on domestic air and sea journeys; [275292]

(2) when she plans to announce further details of her Department's proposal to give the police powers to collect advance passenger data on domestic air and sea journeys. [275502]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* A formal public consultation will take place prior to the secondary legislation necessary to implement the powers. It is intended that this will focus on crossings between Great Britain and Northern Ireland only. A decision to launch this consultation has not yet been made.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the main categories are of personal data selected for redaction from hon. Members' claim forms and receipts prior to publication. [275837]

Nick Harvey: The main categories of data selected for redaction were listed in the notes sent to all Members on 1 April. They are:

Any residential address of a Member of either House of Parliament

Travel arrangements of a Member where the arrangements are regular in nature

The identity of any person who delivers or has delivered goods, or provides or has provided services, to a Member at any residence of the Member (this does not apply to Members' offices or to head office addresses of large suppliers)

Expenditure by a Member on security arrangements

All names of hotels/guest houses used

Correspondence or advice letters to or from Department of Resources/DFA

All manuscript additions to forms, receipts etc where these have been made by HoC staff

Dates and times on till receipts where the name of the supplier is included

Bank and credit card statements (but mortgage or rental agreements or statements will be published to the following extent: (a) names of mortgagee/landlord/chargee (b) amount of interest and rent and (c) information contained on statements of account such as value of mortgage)

Itemised parts of telephone bills listing calls to individual numbers

Personal items on till receipts and invoices for which no claim has been made

Misfiled pages relating to another Member

Names and addresses and other details of members of staff on 'C3' forms (claims for staff expenses)

Other information that is not central to the purpose of the claim or which could aid identity fraud including:

personal telephone numbers and other contact details

barcodes

cost centres and departmental identification numbers

personal data of third parties (excluding the name of mortgagees, chargees or landlords)

bank/Giro details

photocopies of cheques

account, invoice, delivery, order, NI or reference numbers

signatures

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of graduates with outstanding tuition fee loans who are resident overseas; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of such graduates who are repaying those loans. [274358]

Mr. Lammy: Student loans for tuition fees have been available since 2006/07. The following table includes English domiciled students and European students who studied at English higher education institutions. It shows the number of borrowers with outstanding tuition fee loans who were known to be resident overseas as at 31 March 2008.

Repayment status at 31 March 2008	*Number of borrowers*
Under earnings threshold	1,070
Repaying as scheduled	170
Full repayment in progress	10
PGCE Moratorium On Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) Part of Debt	-
Fully repaid after entering repayment	-
Total	1,250

'-' denotes negligible.

Note:

Repayment Status "PGCE Moratorium On ICR Part Of Debt" describes those Income Contingent (IC) borrowers who also have a mortgage style loan and have opted to repay this loan account first before commencing repaying their IC loan balance.

Following usual statistical practice, figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. It is not currently possible to disclose information for the period after 31st March 2008. This is because, following National Statistics protocol, the statistics are under embargo until the publication of the Student Loans Statistical First Release due in summer 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: International Assistance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has contributed to the United Nations Development Programme in Afghanistan. [274709]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £16 million of its bilateral programme through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Afghanistan last year (2008-09).

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what progress his Department is making towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals in Africa; [275007]

(2) what progress the Government is making towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal on *(a)* reducing child mortality, *(b)* improving national health, *(c)* poverty reduction and hunger and *(d)* achieving universal primary education. [275008]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UN conducts the official assessment of progress towards the millennium development goals (MDGs). Their latest report relating to 2008

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/mdg-factsheets/mdg-report-2008.pdf

found that the global collective effort is yielding results and that progress is being made globally towards achieving many of the MDGs even in some of the more challenging regions. A number of targets are expected to be reached by their target dates in 2015.

The Department for International Development (DFID) also conducts an annual assessment of progress towards key MDG targets at a country level based on international data. The latest assessment was published in its 2008 autumn performance report (copies of which are also in the parliamentary Library):

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/sust-perf-report-08.pdf

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of producing the short film shown at his Department's White Paper consultation event in London on 5 May 2009; on how many future occasions the film will be shown in public; and if he will make a statement. [274383]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The short film "Our Interdependent World" is one of three films originally commissioned for and shown at the DFID conference, "Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future" on 9 and 10 March 2009. The cost of the three films was £38,545. These films are being shown at a series of 12 regional consultation events on DFID's forthcoming White Paper hosted by DFID Ministers, including the London event on 5 May. They are also being shown at other consultation events and meetings on the White Paper, and are available to view on DFID's website. So far, over 1,700 people have seen "Our Interdependent World".

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was to his Department of *(a)* venue hire, *(b)* refreshments and *(c)* other expenditure in relation to the White Paper public consultation event held in London on 5 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [274384]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The venue cost for the London consultation event was £4,350. Refreshments, including Fairtrade tea and coffee, amounted to £4,597.50. The total cost, including the above and also technical and production management, facilitation and delegate management amounted to £23,142 excluding VAT. The Central Office of Information events team researched over 30 central London venues which were potentially suitable, and the chosen venue was the cheapest available.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of the public consultation process for his Department's forthcoming White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [274385]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The estimated cost to the Department for International Development (DFID) of the public consultation process for the forthcoming White Paper on International Development is £331,463. This has covered: 12 UK regional consultation events hosted by Ministers; six regional consultations hosted by DFID offices in Kenya and Somalia, Jamaica, India, Southern Africa, China and Bangladesh; and over 50 other consultation meetings in the UK with specific groups of stakeholders. It also includes costs related to the online public consultation on the DFID website. The consultation has so far reached a wide range of individuals and organisations in the UK and around the world.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what mechanisms have been in place for the payment of expenses to Ministers and officials in his Department at regional meetings of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank in the last 10 years; [274381]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by his Department to Ministers and officials on the acceptance of expenses payments at the meetings of multilateral development banks. [274382]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Travel to multilateral development banks, including the Inter-American Development Bank and Asian Development Bank, is considered to be the same as any international travel undertaken by Ministers and officials of the Department for International Development's (DFID) business. DFID arranges and meets the costs of this travel and other expenses, which are accounted for against receipts.

It is not DFID policy for Ministers or officials to claim expenses from the multilateral development banks. Accommodation is, however, sometimes provided by the host bank for their annual meetings.

Developing Countries: Drugs

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department is taking to ensure efficient and timely procurement of antiretroviral drugs through the Global Fund and other mechanisms. [275005]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is aware that some countries supported by the Global Fund are at risk from health facility stores temporarily running out of essential antiretroviral drugs (stock-outs). DFID officials have spoken to the fund's secretariat about this, including recently at the Global Fund's Executive Board (5-6 May 2009). Formally, the UK supported a resolution made at the board meeting which obliges the fund's secretariat to address this issue urgently, to report on whether its existing procedures are adequate, and to propose solutions which would minimise the risks of disruptions to treatment both in the short term and on an ongoing basis. In developing countries such as Zimbabwe, DFID is also assisting, where possible, in the provision of drugs while problems in Global Fund supported programmes are being addressed.

Developing Countries: Economic Situation

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist developing countries to mitigate the effects on them of the economic downturn. [275070]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government have taken various steps through different channels to mitigate the adverse effects of the economic crisis on developing countries. These include:

Taking the appropriate steps to relieve growth at home which will reinvigorate trade and financial flows to developing countries;

Acting through multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and IMF to provide timely and effective assistance; and

Providing support directly through our bilateral programmes.

Through its leadership, the UK was instrumental in the announcements made at the London Summit to increase the resources of the IMF including the extension of special drawing rights (SDRs) which will provide vital assistance to developing countries facing short-term balance-of-payments problems. In total, an additional $50 billion was made available to low income countries (LICs).

In March this year, DFID pledged £200 million towards the rapid social response fund to be administrated by the World Bank providing immediate help to meet the daily needs of the poorest people in the poorest countries in the economic downturn.

DFID continues to work closely with our development partners and international financial institutions to ensure that developing countries are provided with timely and effective assistance—*e.g.* capital increases for the Asian Development Bank; reforms to the exogenous shock facility (ESF).

DFID will be spending more on its bilateral programmes than ever before—2009-10 budget is £2.6 billion. We remain committed to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent. of gross national income (GNI) devoted to official development assistance (ODA) by 2013.

Country programmes are designed to be flexible to respond to changing needs. Where appropriate, existing scheduled country programme spend has been adjusted accordingly.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he made of the implications for his Department's overseas development projects of the outcome of the spring meetings of the World Bank; and if he will make a statement. [275009]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There are no direct implications for the Department of International Development's (DFID) bilateral programmes from the outcome of the World Bank spring meetings.

The spring meetings helped to underline support for optimal use of the Bank's balance sheet, with lending of up to $100 billion over three years. The UK, along with other shareholders, welcomed Bank initiatives to protect the poorest, reinvigorate trade finance, maintain investment in infrastructure and support the financial sector. We

expect these initiatives to complement DFID's own programmes and projects in the countries in which we work together.

Palestinians: Bomb Disposal

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is giving to the disposal of unexploded munitions in Gaza. [274992]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided funding of £641,000 directly to Mines Action Group and the UN Mines Action Service for the assessment and clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO). UXO has been cleared from all UN Relief and Works Agency schools, as well as other public areas such as market places. This has allowed 220,00 children to resume their education, improved security for the civilian population and is allowing early recovery efforts, such as the removal of rubble and for families to return home, to proceed.

Mine clearing organisations are still awaiting clearance from Israel for critical safety equipment and the explosives needed to destroy UXO already cleared to be allowed into Gaza. Agreement on a safe place to destroy the UXO inside Gaza is also required. The UK Government continue to urge Israel to allow the necessary equipment to enter Gaza and to agree to a disposal site.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Government are providing to charities and other non-governmental organisations working with the population of Gaza. [275000]

Mr. Michael Foster: Information on funding provided by the UK Government to non-governmental organisations operating in Gaza is available in the table 'DFID UK Funding to 2009 Gaza'. This is on the DFID web-site:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Palestinians: Trauma

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support children in Gaza affected by trauma following shelling. [274993]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is funding several organisations which are providing psychosocial support to traumatised children and their families. Mercy Corps is providing support to conflict affected children, youth and their families through family centres; Islamic Relief have helped 1200 children through group activities such as outings and self expression in safe environments; and the UN Relief and Works Agency have 164 counsellors in their schools to help traumatised children.

JUSTICE

Bribery: Convictions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of offences relating to bribery in each of the last 10 calendar years. [275878]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1253-54W.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many domestic property transactions in each local authority area in the South West were recorded by the Land Registry in the first quarter of 2009. [275844]

Mr. Wills: The number of residential properties sold in each local authority area in the south west in the first quarter of 2009 is shown in the following table.

District name	*Total sales*
Bath and North East Somerset	282
Bournemouth	420
Caradon	102
Carrick	137
Cheltenham	249
Christchurch	135
City of Bristol	782
City of Plymouth	440
Cornwall	241
Cotswold	172
East Devon	262
East Dorset	174
Exeter	174
Forest of Dean	125
Gloucester	243
Kennet	95
Kerrier	117
Mendip	186
Mid Devon	181
North Cornwall	106
North Devon	144
North Dorset	117
North Somerset	353
North Wiltshire	148
Penwith	81
Poole	307
Purbeck	81
Restormel	129
Salisbury	144
Sedgemoor	192
South Gloucestershire	448
South Hams	196
South Somerset	268
Stroud	193
Swindon	434
Taunton Deane	196
Teignbridge	240
Tewkesbury	146
Torbay	271

District name	Total sales
Torridge	131
West Devon	107
West Dorset	224
West Somerset	73
West Wiltshire	179
Weymouth and Portland	158
Wiltshire	213
Total sales	9,796

Land Registry

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many titles in England and Wales were stored on HM Land Registry records on the latest date for which figures are available. [275153]

Mr. Wills: On 8 May 2009 there were 22,185,077 registered titles from England and Wales stored on the Land Registry database.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of land registration records which contain inaccuracies. [275158]

Mr. Wills: Although there is no current estimate of records that contain inaccuracies, Land Registry runs automated systems that check against their records to identify potential inaccuracies that are then investigated on a daily basis. Land Registry has reported an accuracy rate of 98.91 per cent. in respect of its output for the year ending 31 March 2009 against a KPI of 98.5 per cent. This level of accuracy was achieved across more than four million applications directly affecting the entries on the Register of Title.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the procedure is for the alteration of a record held by the Land Registry. [275163]

Mr. Wills: Applications to alter the register of title are made using the forms and procedures prescribed by the land registration legislation. Applications must be accompanied by the appropriate documents and evidence needed to justify the alteration. Land Registry publishes a range of public and practice guides that provide guidance about the different types of application that can be made.

Land Registry requires confirmation of identity for certain types of application as detailed in Land Registry "Practice Guide 67—Evidence of Identity".

All applications are checked by Land Registry's staff in accordance with centrally prescribed practice guidance. If an application is not in order Land Registry may reject it on receipt or may send a written requisition for the defect to be put right. The application may be cancelled if the requisition is not complied with by a specified date.

In some cases notice of an application is sent to interested parties and time is allowed for them to agree or object to the application. Any objection which is not groundless and cannot be resolved by agreement is referred for hearing by the adjudicator to HM Land Registry and the application cannot then be completed until the dispute has been resolved.

If the application is in order, or when all requisitions and objections have been dealt with, the application is approved and the register is altered. The alteration takes effect from the time when Land Registry received the application.

The Courts and the registrar also have power to alter the register without an application being made in the circumstances described in Schedule 4 to the Land Registration Act 2002, for example to correct a mistake or to bring the register up to date.

Land Registry: Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what electronic security risk assessment was carried out prior to the establishment of the Land Register Online website. [275165]

Mr. Wills: The Land Register Online facility was conceived as a facility to contribute substantially towards the Government's initiative to provide easier access for the citizen to government held data. As a "view only" service the integrity of the information held is not at risk through the service. The information made available through the service is available through other channels.

A security assessment was undertaken in July 2002 by IBM Global Services. The agreed design was implemented by Land Registry with significant assistance from both HP/Compaq and IBM.

The solution's implementation was validated from a security design stance through the engagement of Echelon who completed their testing 6 May 2003. The scope of the penetration test was to determine if Land Registry's website could be breached.

Echelon concluded that the

"website's ability to limit attack is restrictive enough to be considered secure."

Land Registry: Electronic Funds Transfer

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what risk assessment has been undertaken in respect of the Land Registry's proposed electronic funds transfer service; and what anti-fraud measures will be in place under this service; [275166]

(2) when the Land Registry plans to commence its electronic funds transfer service. [275167]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is not pursuing the development of the electronic funds transfer service.

Land Registry: Electronic Government

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future provision of electronic services by HM Land Registry. [275160]

Mr. Wills: The Land Registry is currently consolidating existing e-services onto a new technical platform. Within the current financial year the Land Registry expects to have moved 12,000 professional customers to this new platform, which will support the recent delivery of new electronic services, such as mortgages and redemptions. Welsh language versions of all these services will be made available shortly.

A new Business Gateway service to allow direct connection between customer business software and Land Registry systems without the need to re-key data will be launched as a pilot in June 2009.

Land Registry has recently launched a service developed jointly with the Legal Services Commission for the registration of statutory charges.

The next stage is to introduce a new service allowing electronic transfers of registered land, including the capability to lodge Stamp Duty Land Tax Returns to HMRC. The Land Registry anticipates that this service will be piloted in 2011. Once live, it will be possible for professional customers to apply for the electronic registration of a redemption, transfer and mortgage, so supporting the residential house buying process.

All services will be designed to comply with the appropriate accessibility standards.

To protect the integrity of the Land Register, access to these registration services is made available only to customers who have successfully proved their business and personal identity in accordance with the relevant security checks.

Land Registry: Fraud

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms to prevent fraud are used by HM Land Registry. [275154]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is committed to fighting registration fraud and has implemented a wide ranging anti-fraud strategy. Some aspects of the strategy must remain confidential but measures already implemented include:

publication of Land Registry Public Guide 17—How to safeguard against property fraud and Public Guide 02—Keeping your address for service up to date, which advise property owners to record current contact addresses with Land Registry. Up to three addresses for service are allowed on the register, one of which may be an email address;

enhanced ID requirements, as detailed in Land Registry Practice Guide 67—Evidence of identity;

anti-fraud training for all Land Registry caseworkers; and

the introduction of IT systems to assist in identifying suspect cases.

The strategy is constantly kept under review and revised as appropriate. Land Registry also maintains contact with relevant national bodies, including the National Fraud Authority.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training on detecting fraudulent activity is provided to Land Registry employees. [275164]

Mr. Wills: All Land Registry staff receive face-to-face training sessions on the importance of combating fraud and their part in this, and there are regular updates to all staff as internal processes and policies are reviewed and changed. The last two of these were in October 2008 and January 2009. In each Land Registry office there are senior staff who have had further training on fraud issues and they are there to support casework staff on high risk applications.

Land Registry's in-house electronic processing systems identify potential fraudulent applications automatically and all casework staff have been trained on the actions they must take in such circumstances. Land Registry's technical manuals contain clear instructions as to the processes staff must follow on every application received in order to prevent fraudulent registration.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to inform *(a)* an individual owning an interest in property and *(b)* legal representatives of an individual owning an interest in property to a suspected incident of property fraud in respect of that interest. [275170]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry informs owners of applications to alter their register where either the land registration legislation requires it or Land Registry thinks it prudent to do so. Notification is most often sent in cases where the application is made by someone who is not a professional conveyancer.

The notice is sent to the owner's address for service as recorded in the register. All owners are required to provide at least one such address and are entitled to enter up to three. It is important that they keep their addresses up to date to ensure they receive such a notice.

Land Registry will usually not know who the owner's legal representatives are at the time notice is to be sent and so does not generally send the notice to them. For example, it cannot be assumed that the solicitor who acted on a transfer to the owner some years ago is still their representative now. However, if an owner gives their legal representatives' address as one of the owner's addresses for service, Land Registry will send any notification to that address.

Prosecutions: Council Tax

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there have been in England and Wales for non-payment of council tax in each year since 1999, broken down by local authority. [275621]

Maria Eagle: Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 56 of the Council Tax (Administration & Enforcement) Regulations 1992 cannot be separately identified on the Ministry of Justice Court proceedings database as they form part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be analysed.

PRIME MINISTER

Forfeiture Committee

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister when the Forfeiture Committee next plans to meet. [275836]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2136W.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 27 February 2009, on tax evasion. [275843]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274563]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately identify the costs of building maintenance from the routine repair, maintenance and refurbishment of existing facilities. Over the period of the last five years, the Office has shared its accommodation with a number of other Government Departments. The following figures show the gross total for repairs and maintenance of Scotland Office buildings, but does not include the contribution by the departments towards their share of the costs.

	Cost (£)
2003-04	179,853
2004-05	374,129
2005-06	331,803
2006-07	355,071
2007-08	[1] 1,011,254

[1] Under the terms of the building leases the Office is required to maintain the buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair, which in 2007-08 included roof and exterior repairs to Dover House in London.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274498]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office do not separately record the cost of conference and banqueting services. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: EU Countries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* scheduled and *(b)* charter flights there were from British airports to (i) Belgium, (ii) Finland and (iii) Greece in each of the last five years. [275830]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following tables show the number of scheduled and charter flights departing from British airports to Belgium, Finland and Greece in each of the last five years.

Table 1: Scheduled flights from British airports to Belgium, Finland and Greece

Thousand

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Belgium	16.6	16.1	16.2	16.9	14.9
Finland	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.7
Greece	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.5	5.2

Source:
DFT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

Table 2: Charter flights from British airports to Belgium, Finland and Greece

Thousand

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Belgium	[1] —	[1] —	[1] —	[1] —	[1] —
Finland	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Greece	11.9	11.3	11.1	10.3	9.2

[1] Less than 100 flights

Source:
DFT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

Bus Services: Concessions

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of West Lancashire district council on *(a)* funding for, *(b)* pool arrangements for and *(c)* surplus from the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [275845]

Paul Clark: Department for Transport Ministers have not had any recent discussions with representatives of West Lancashire district council. However, Ministers have had discussions with representatives of other councils within the Lancashire region.

Departmental officials have met with representatives of the Lancashire Concessionary Travel Scheme, of which West Lancashire is a member. This group comprises the districts and unitary authorities of Lancashire plus the county council. These discussions focused on the concerns that some local authorities in Lancashire have regarding the allocation of concessionary travel special grant funding.

I am aware that authorities within the Lancashire County Scheme already choose to pool a proportion of their funding. This year West Lancashire will receive £252,714 of special grant funding to meet the cost of the new England-wide concession. This represents an increase of 23 per cent. on the authority's spend on concessionary travel in 2007-08.

As funding for concessionary travel is not ring-fenced, local authorities are free to spend the money on any services, provided they meet their statutory obligations. This is consistent with wider policy on local government funding of giving authorities greater freedom and flexibility.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has provided for West Lancashire district council in respect of the national concessionary bus fares scheme in each year since the scheme was introduced. [275846]

Paul Clark: Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the Formula Grant system, which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). The Department for Transport

therefore provided no separate funding to West Lancashire district council for concessionary bus travel from 2001, when the statutory minimum was first introduced, until 2008.

The Department did however provide West Lancashire with £50,404 in 2007-08 for the cost of producing and issuing the new England-wide bus passes to all those eligible.

In 2008-09 West Lancashire district council received additional special grant funding from the Department for Transport of £246,891 to meet the additional cost of the new, England-wide concession. This represents an increase of 22 per cent. on the authority's spend on concessionary travel in 2007-08. In 2009-10 West Lancashire district council will receive special grant funding of £252,714.

Road Traffic

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of traffic congestion on the environment. [275530]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has commissioned research into assessing the cost of transport's impact on the natural landscape. The results of phases 1 and 2 of the study are reported on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/rdg/landscape/

In addition the Highways Agency is developing a methodology to account for the changes to the quantity of vehicle emissions that affect air quality that can result from major roads schemes.

Also, the Department is collaborating with DEFRA to manage research that DEFRA has commissioned to investigate the health impacts of environmental noise. Although the remit of the study is not confined to transport, it is recognised that transport is a major source of noise exposure to those who live or work near roads.

Although not recent, from 1998 to 2004 the Department ran a research programme—TRAffic Management and Air Quality research (TRAMAQ)—looking at the impact of traffic management schemes on air quality. Details of this can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/research/tmairqualityresearch/trafficmanagementandairquali3927

There is also recently commissioned related research that is looking at the impacts, including environmental ones, of smarter choices, cycling initiatives, and sustainable travel measures generally.

TREASURY

Annuities

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the merits of removing the requirement for pensioners to buy annuities at the age of 75 years; [275672]

(2) with reference to the answer by the Leader of the House, 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 791, on pensions, what the outcome has been of discussions between his Department and the Department for Work and Pensions on the requirement on pensioners to annuitise pensions at the age of 75 years. [275627]

Ian Pearson: There is no requirement to annuitise at any age. Rather there is a requirement that an income be taken from pension savings by age 75.

The Government have considered this requirement to secure an income from a pension fund at age 75 in light of recent conditions in financial markets but has no plans to change it. 95 per cent. of people take an income from their pension savings by the age of 70.

The current rules already allow a considerable degree of flexibility. A pension income can currently commence at any time between the ages of 50 and 75, and can be taken from a pension fund without annuitising, through income drawdown. Even at 75, it is not compulsory to annuitise; alternatively secured pensions are available for those for whom they are suitable and who do not wish to buy an annuity.

Autism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guests were invited to the autism reception held at 11 Downing Street on 5 May 2009. [274673]

Angela Eagle: Invitations were issued by "Autism Speaks"—who hosted the reception—and not by HM Treasury.

Bank of England Act 1998

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Bank of England Act 1998; what recent representations he has received about this Act; and what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued since October 2008 and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of the Act. [274018]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury reviews regularly the legislative framework for which it is responsible. It receives representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

The Banking Act 2009, which received Royal Assent on 12 February this year, includes provisions to amend the Bank of England Act 1998 and enables secondary legislation in relation to the role of the Bank. All such legislation is available from the Office of Public Sector Information:

www.opsi.gov.uk

Information published by the Treasury in relation to Part II of the Bank of England Act 1998 (Monetary Policy) can be found on its website, as can Treasury press releases relating to Bank of England appointments made under the Act:

www.hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department at each pay band have responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on the Bank of England Act 1998; what other posts in his Department each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [274019]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury has a broad range of policy interests related to the Bank of England Act 1998, and flexes the related resources as required. Overall, at 1 April 2008, the Treasury Group had 1,451 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. Further information regarding Treasury staffing can be found in its latest annual report available at

www.hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk.

Child Tax Credit: Underpayments

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of child tax allowance which was underpaid to married men in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [275899]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is not available as HM Revenue and Customs do not hold information on marital status.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer up to what date reviews of an individual's child tax allowance could be requested; and if he will make a statement. [275900]

Ian Pearson: Information concerning tax credits customers' appeal rights can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) leaflet WTC/AP "How to appeal against a tax credits decision or award" which is available on the internet at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc_ap.pdf

HMRC is statutorily allowed to examine the correctness of a tax credits claim after it has been finalised. Those powers include time limits for opening an enquiry although there are certain circumstances in which it will still be possible to reconsider a claim for any year after those time limits have expired. Further information can be found in the HMRC Claimant Compliance Manual published on the internet at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ccmmanual/Index.htm

Debts

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the level of personal debt; and if he will make a statement. [274620]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury continually monitors the levels of both household liabilities and assets, and the implications of these for the wider economy are examined as part of the pre-Budget report and Budget forecasting process.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260470]

Angela Eagle: Treasury guidance ensures that staff attendance and absence are managed locally by line managers with their staff. Flexible working arrangements ensure that many staff have the capacity to work from home when transport or other disruptions occur.

Details of the number or cost of staff taking leave or applying flexible working arrangements on any particular day could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274442]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has not outsourced any services within the past five years.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270525]

Angela Eagle: Both the Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have well-established processes for dealing with staff disciplinary investigations, and both Departments work from the presumption that the conduct of an investigation, and any suspension from duty applied, does not imply that any wrongdoing or disciplinary conduct has taken place. Both have a policy to maintain staff on full pay while suspended unless there are compelling reasons to suspend without pay.

As a smaller Department, it is not the Treasury's practice to comment on investigations, including whether or not a suspension has been applied, as to do so might compromise the outcome of current or future investigations.

Currently 22 HMRC staff are suspended, eight of those have been suspended for up to three months, three for three to six months, seven for seven to 12 months, two for 17 months, one for 25 months and one for 26 months. These suspensions have been applied because staff are under police investigation for matters in their private lives, because they are under criminal investigation by HMRC's internal investigators, or because they are under investigation for potentially serious disciplinary offences.

Both Departments keep their disciplinary policies under review.

Imports: Drugs

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has taken in respect of the import of pharmaceutical products ordered over the internet which are deemed dangerous to public health; how many prosecutions have been bought in respect of illicit imports in the last five years; and what discussions HMRC has had with overseas administrations on the issue. [272626]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

In the United Kingdom, strict legal controls apply to the retail sale and supply of medicines and these controls apply equally to medicines sold via the internet.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for enforcing medicines legislation and can take enforcement action against breaches of that legislation in the UK. During the last five years, 18 successful prosecutions have been brought involving medicines being traded illegally over the internet.

Medicines that are brought into the UK by an individual for his or her own personal use, including those purchased via the internet, are not subject to the controls of medicines legislation.

We are aware that considerable illegal activity takes place through websites hosted abroad and outside UK control. The MHRA works closely with European Union and other international regulatory authorities to ensure that, wherever possible, offending websites are amended to reflect the law. MHRA also participates in cross-Government and international groups set up to explore how best to combat internet issues, and exchange intelligence.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 17 March 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on leading bankers, PO reference: 1/69395/2009. [275675]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Economic Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the letter of 17 March 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on the reduction of income derived from pensioners savings, PO reference: 5/04517/2009. [275676]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 19 February 2009, on national saving accounts, PO reference: 1/67675/2009. [275839]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons HM Customs and Excise's offices in *(a)* Bangor, *(b)* Bedford and *(c)* Doncaster were withdrawn from the Workforce Change programme. [273641]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* The decisions to vacate HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices in Bangor, Bedford and Doncaster were among those announced in December 2008 at the conclusion of HMRC's Workforce Change regional review programme to match HMRC's estate to future business needs. Those decisions have not changed.

While HMRC has looked again at the timing of closures of a number of its offices in the light of budgetary constraints, the aim is still to close them in 2010-11. Full vacation of Ty Glyn, Bangor, and Weston House, Doncaster, originally expected by the end of 2009-10, has now been deferred until after 2009-10. The intention to vacate Portman House, Bedford, by spring 2011 remains unchanged.

Revenue and Customs: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will remain contracted to Mapeley in respect of the HMRC office at Crewe House, Crewe. [275955]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) office at Crewe House, Crewe was included in the Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) outsourcing deal with Mapeley in April 2001. The STEPS contract is for a term of 20 years from 2001. However, there is flexibility within the contract for HMRC to fully or partially vacate properties prior to the contract expiry date in 2021. HMRC will remain contracted to Mapeley in respect of Crewe House until it vacates and the appropriate contractual vacation notice expires.

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 541W, on HM Revenue and Customs in Crewe, how much he estimates will accrue in each category of the proposed savings of £230 million to arise from the vacation of two floors of the HM Revenue and Customs offices at Crewe House, Crewe. [276014]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs is unable to disclose the specific estate savings for Crewe House, Crewe on grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the stamp duty land tax holiday is estimated to have cost the Exchequer at the latest date for which information is available. [275772]

Ian Pearson: The estimated cost of the stamp duty land tax holiday in 2008-09 and the cost for 2009-10 up to 3 September 2009, the original date for the end of the holiday, was published in the PBR 2008 report at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_annexb_262.pdf

A revised estimate for the cost of the stamp duty land tax holiday in 2009-10, to 3 September 2009, was published in table A2 of the Budget 2009 report at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chaptera307.pdf

The cost of extending the holiday to 31 December 2009 was also published in table A1 of the Budget 2009 report at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chaptera_307.pdf

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised in cash terms from stamp duty land tax on residential property in each year since 1996-97. [275855]

Ian Pearson: Estimates of the stamp duty land tax from residential property raised in cash terms since 1996-97 are given at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-2.xls

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology was used to calculate the figure of £50 million estimated revenue lost to the Exchequer by the removal of value added tax on bingo participation fees in the 2009 Budget. [274772]

Angela Eagle: The estimated revenue impact of £50 million in the 2009 Budget Redbook relates to the cost of VAT exemption for both bingo and player-to-player gaming in casinos in 2009-10. Our estimate of the cost of removing VAT on bingo participation fees has been calculated using a methodology that is consistent with other costings of policy changes on tax. It uses information from the bingo industry, bingo duty receipts and takes account of behavioural effects.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions his Department has had with representatives of the bingo industry on levels of taxation in the industry in the last three months; [274765]

(2) what discussions there have been between representatives of his Department and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the proposed transfer of gaming machines to a gross profits taxation regime; [274755]

(3) what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on gambling taxation prior to the 2009 Budget. [274761]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials met with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual Budget process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the changes to the tax rates for *(a)* bingo, *(b)* casinos, *(c)* betting, *(d)* gaming machines and *(e)* online gaming following the 2009 Budget are. [274784]

Angela Eagle: Details of the tax changes relating to different gambling sectors were announced at Budget 2009. Costings implications are published in Table A1 in the Financial Statement and Budget Report. More detailed information on the tax changes can be found in HMRC Budget Notes 73 and 83, published on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2009/bn73.htm

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2009/bn83.htm

Taxation: National Lottery

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate his Department has made of the effect on *(a)* prize levels, *(b)* good causes' revenue and *(c)* taxation revenue of a change to the taxation regime for the National Lottery from lottery duty to gross profits taxation. [275410]

Angela Eagle: The Government undertook a detailed assessment of the case for taxing the national lottery on a gross profits tax basis before the 2008 pre-Budget report.

The Government concluded that there was considerable uncertainty over the impact of a switch to a gross profits tax, particularly given the start of the new lottery operating licence in February 2009. The stakes based system of lottery taxation has therefore been retained.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to change the date on which value added tax will revert to 17.5 per cent. to take account of trends in the turnover of retail outlets at the end of 2009. [275427]

Mr. Timms: Budget 2009 confirmed that the VAT rate will revert to 17.5 per cent. from 1 January 2010. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will continue to talk to businesses about practical issues associated with the change.

To address the particular difficulties for businesses such as pubs and clubs that will remain open beyond midnight on 31 December, HMRC will allow a few hours' trading grace in which they may continue charging the 15 per cent. rate for a session that goes into the early hours of 1 January.

WALES

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275192]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has paid the following amounts to suppliers under the late payment of commercial debts:

	£
2006-07	0
2007-08	117
2008-09	[1]822

[1] Interim payment under negotiation with a view to being refunded.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275336]

Mr. Paul Murphy: All paper used for photocopying and printing in my Department is sourced from recycled materials. Records are not held on all proportions of stationery that are recycled products and this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. However, we are developing a sustainable development policy that will include recording this information.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274475]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not collate the information requested centrally and it could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Incapacity Benefit

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to assist long-term incapacity benefit claimants back into work. [272482]

Jonathan Shaw: We set out in the White Paper "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future" published in December 2008, a range of measures to help long-term incapacity benefit claimants into work.

Pathways to Work was rolled out nationally on 28 April 2008 and is now available to everyone receiving incapacity benefits and employment and support allowance in Great Britain. Later this year we will be introducing mandatory work-focused interviews for existing incapacity benefits customers under the age of 25 in Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work areas.

We intend to migrate existing incapacity benefits customers to employment and support allowance and, in the light of Pathways to Work evaluation evidence, plan to introduce a new system of three work-focused interviews for customers aged under 50 once migrated. They will be able to take up further support on a voluntary basis. It is intended that customers aged 50 and over will receive one mandatory work-focused interview, again with the option of further voluntary support. We also plan to run pilots to test new ways of delivering employment support to existing customers aged 50 and over, to establish what works best for this group.

In addition, five Invest to Save pilots are planned to test the innovative funding model proposed by David Freud, alongside Professor Gregg's vision of conditionality for existing long-term customers.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases his Department has referred to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in each year since 2007. [268671]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pension, Disability and Carers Service routinely refers people to a range of complementary services and organisations where appropriate. Information is not collected centrally on the numbers that are referred to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 18 May 2009

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from which budgets the £90 million allocated in Budget 2009 for research into carbon capture and storage will be drawn. [276151]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: £60 million is transferred from the Department of Transport and £30 million from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 since its creation. [275204]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Nil.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what services his Department has outsourced since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [275635]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274526]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Complaints to DECC, received by whatever means, i.e. by *(a)* e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone or *(d)* via the Department's website, should be dealt with within 15 working days of receipt.

Where possible, complaints should be resolved at the point of receipt. Where this is not possible, the complaint is passed to the unit within the department responsible for the area of work complained about, to be dealt with there. If a complainant is not satisfied with the outcome, the complainant is given the option to escalate the complaint to DECC's impartial Service Standards Adjudicator if it's about standards of service; or to DECC's Secretary of State or a DECC Minister via a Member of Parliament for complaints about DECC policy or legal issues.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services since its creation. [274507]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its creation on 3 October 2008 the Department has spent *(a)* £64,800 on conference services and *(b)* nothing on banqueting services.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275347]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not separately account for purchases of office supplies made from recycled products.

Mineral Resources: International Cooperation

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the Government's strategy for preservation of global mineral resources. [264697]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has not had any discussions with his right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on the Government's strategy for preservation of global mineral resources.

Natural Gas: Waste Disposal

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of mains gas supply is accounted for by production from anaerobic digester plants. [275790]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Currently no gas in the mains system is provided by anaerobic digester plants.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Copyright: Internet

Dr. Howells: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to replace self-regulation in respect of digital content and copyright into a statutory system; [275928]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with internet service providers on measures to reduce levels of copyright theft and infringement; [275929]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on proposals to vest in Ofcom a statutory power to create a code of practice on terms for transfer of shares of revenues generated by the use of copyrighted material; [275930]

(4) what steps he is taking to investigate the effects of copyright piracy on the economic viability of the digital content business sector; [275931]

(5) what discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues and *(b)* the UK Film Council on the Council's proposal for a legislative structure to support a graduated response approach to online copyright theft and infringement; [275932]

(6) what steps he plans to take to maintain the economic viability of the UK's digital content business sector; [275933]

(7) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Digital Rights Agency and *(b)* other digital rights representatives on amendments to the present regulatory regime on infringements of copyright in respect of digital rights; [275934]

(8) if he will assess the merits of a deterrence scheme to ensure that higher broadband speeds do not lead to an increase in illegal file sharing and copyright theft. [275935]

Andy Burnham: The Government recognise the damaging economic impact of copyright theft and infringement, and unlawful peer-to-peer file-sharing in particular, on the creative sector. Although the music industry is currently affected most by this, other industries—such as film, computer games and publishing—will be increasingly affected as higher broadband speeds are introduced. Last year we set up a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Government, internet service providers (ISPs) and rights holders, as a first step to finding agreement on a way forward. Outcomes from the MOU informed the proposals set out in the Digital Britain Interim Report (DBIR) in January. The DBIR proposed a requirement for ISPs to notify their customers when rights holders identified them as engaging in unlawful file sharing. Information on the most serious infringers would then be made available to rights holders (based on the collection of data on the notification requests from rights holders, and subject to a court order) to help them prioritise legal action against those infringers. This would provide a form of graduated response up to prosecution for the most serious infringers. Other forms of graduated response have been suggested to us in response to consultations on this issue, and we are considering the merits of these. We have also consulted on the idea of creating a rights agency, the establishment of a code of practice and Ofcom's possible involvement in this. We have discussed these issues and ideas at ministerial and official level both between Departments and with many interested parties, including ISPs, the UK Film Council and other rights holders' representatives. We will issue a further consultation on the legislative proposals shortly.

More generally, the DBIR acknowledged the structural and cyclical pressures on the UK's media industry and the threats to continued investment in UK-originated content in the digital world. We recognise the challenges and opportunities presented by the transition to digital, and the DBIR made a commitment to investigate ways to address these issues further. Our conclusions will be published in the final Digital Britain report.

Digital Broadcasting: Scotland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that residents of Scotland are prepared for the digital switchover. [275697]

Andy Burnham: Digital UK and the Switchover Help Scheme are the organisations responsible for implementing the digital switchover and providing assistance to those who may need it.

The Scottish information campaign began in October 2007. Since then leaflets have been sent to every Scottish home and TV, radio and press campaigns have been running at intervals to inform viewers about their options for switchover. Over the past two years, Digital UK's Scotland team has carried out a number of public and stakeholder meetings and events to ensure that residents and key stakeholders in Scotland are prepared for the switchover.

The Switchover Help Scheme will begin operating in each transmitter group area up to eight months prior to switchover to offer practical help to those who are eligible. Additionally, national, regional and local charities will begin a programme of community outreach across Scotland to support individuals through the switchover process. Project management, materials and grants are funded through Digital UK. Digital UK also runs a website providing information on switchover at:

http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/

Future Jobs Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has available as part of the Future Jobs Fund. [276171]

Andy Burnham: The Future Jobs Fund is held by the Department for Work and Pensions. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and I announced in May, plans to create 5-10,000 jobs in the cultural and creative sector. Sports organisations have already pledged to bid for at least 5,000 jobs.

Tourism Advisory Council

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representation from local authorities there is on the Tourism Advisory Council. [274683]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* There is currently no representation from local authorities on the Tourism Advisory Council (TAC). The first meeting of the council took place on 30 April 2009 and was established to draw together senior practitioners primarily from the tourism industry to engage with the Government Departments whose policies impact on tourism.

However, after consultation with Visit England's chair, we are currently reviewing the local authority representation on the TAC.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Caravans

Mr. Ames: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* Transport for London on the provision of caravan sites for those attending the Olympic games in 2012 since December 2008; and if she will make a statement. [275611]

Tessa Jowell: There are no plans for spaces for recreational caravans in the Olympic Park. However, we recognise that motor home and caravan users may wish to attend the 2012 games and we expect that, closer to the time, the Olympic Delivery Authority will wish to follow up initial discussions it has had with the Caravan Club to explore the potential for games-time integration of public transport provision and licensed caravan sites.

Olympic Games 2012: Southend on Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions her Office has had since January 2008 with Southend borough council to enable it to *(a)* participate fully in and *(b)* receive a legacy from the London 2012 Olympic games; and if she will make a statement. [275615]

Tessa Jowell: Although the Government Olympic Executive has had no direct discussions with Southend borough council about the legacy of London 2012 in Southend, I meet regularly with the chair of the Local Government Association (LGA) and my officials work closely with their LGA counterparts.

We are fully committed to ensuring that everyone in the UK can be part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. The Legacy Action Plan which I published in June last year sets out more details on how we propose to deliver this vision. I am especially keen for regions to identify what is important to them. At a regional level this work is being taken forward by the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) who are working hard to optimise local benefits of the games.

In December 2008 I addressed the LGA conference which had an Olympic focus. I regularly attend meetings with the London councils and meet the five London host borough representatives. I also undertake a programme of regional visits where I meet with local representatives and businesses to highlight the potential benefits and opportunities of London 2012.

We are already seeing great progress in a lot of these areas, for example 23 of the Olympic Delivery Authority's suppliers are businesses registered in Essex. 66 facilities from the region, including Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre in Essex are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide. Additionally, I am delighted that Southend Unitary Authority is offering free swimming to the over 60s and under 16s.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the number of meals purchased in House of Commons cafeterias in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [275499]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons catering service does not record the number of meals purchased in its cafeterias but instead records the number of sales transactions. A transaction is defined as a customer sale and may be for one meal, several meals, or merely a drink or snack. The number of cafeteria transactions is set out below for the 12 months from April 2008 to March 2009, although the hon. Member should note that the figures are recorded on the basis of 12 financial periods, not calendar months.

	Cafeterias	*Café@work venues*	*Total cafeterias, café@work bars*
Period 1	81,914	15,568	97,482
Period 2	96,733	17,164	113,897
Period 3	116,888	20,828	137,716
Period 4	101,617	18,950	120,567
Period 5	51,991	16,607	68,598
Period 6	66,053	21,831	87,906
Period 7	93,054	17,301	110,355
Period 8	107,559	19,498	127,057
Period 9	109,545	19,418	129,263
Period 10	68,936	11,367	80,303
Period 11	98,048	17,540	115,588
Period 12	144,846	25,507	170,353
Totals 2008-09	1,137,486	221,599	1,359,085

Drinking Water

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the Commission has made of the number of plastic bottles of water sold in House of Commons cafeterias in each of the last 12 months. [275515]

Nick Harvey: A month-by-month breakdown of the number of plastic water bottles sold in the House of Commons cafeterias and other catering venues in the 12 months from April 2008-March 2009 is set out as follows. The hon. Member should note that the figures are recorded on the basis of 12 financial periods, not calendar months.

	Cafeteria	*Other venues*	*Total*
Period 1	7,253	773	8,026
Period 2	9,309	1,205	10,514
Period 3	10,302	1,462	11,764
Period 4	8,774	1,366	10,140
Period 5	4,569	1,295	5,864
Period 6	4,837	1,279	6,116
Period 7	6,607	895	7,502
Period 8	7,046	785	7,831
Period 9	7,019	637	7,656
Period 10	4,477	389	4,866
Period 11	6,372	670	7,042
Period 12	10,334	1,214	11,548
Totals 2008-09	86,899	11,970	98,869

Energy

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what the energy consumption was of each building on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate in each of the last three years; [275505]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the level of electricity consumption of each building on the parliamentary estate. [275599]

Nick Harvey: The energy consumption of each building on the parliamentary estate, broken down by gas and electricity usage, for each of the last three years is as follows:

Energy consumption

MWh

Building	*2006-07*			*2007-08*			*2008-09*		
	Gas	*Electricity*	*Total*	*Gas*	*Electricity*	*Total*	*Gas*	*Electricity*	*Total*
Palace of Westminster	17,851	15,138	32,989	18,593	14,662	33,255	20,634	15,278	35,912
Portcullis House	3,126	3,910	7,036	3,339	3,790	7,129	3,676	3,728	7,404
Norman Shaw N and S	2,430	2,070	4,500	3,011	2,108	5,119	3,214	2,130	5344
1 Canon Row	—	832	832	—	930	930	—	818	818
1 Parliament Street	1,986	2,310	4296	2,117	2,260	4,377	2,133	2,303	4,438
Parliamentary Bookshop	—	34	34	—	25	25	—	23	23
7 Millbank	1,651	3823	5,474	1,737	3,938	5,675	2,107	4,087	6,194
2 The Abbey Garden	91	55	146	72	53	125	101	52	153
Underground Car Park	—	251	251	—	314	314	—	354	354
22 John Islip Street	51	32	83	83	29	112	73	24	97
Total	27,186	28,450	55,641	28,952	28,009	56,961	31,940	28,797	60,737

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the Commission has made of the amount of food waste by weight arising from House of Commons cafeterias in each of the last 12 months; and by what means such waste is disposed. [275514]

Nick Harvey: No record is kept of the amount of food waste by weight but a record is kept of the value of food waste. The cost of food wastage is set out as follows for the House of Commons cafeterias for each of the 12 months from April 2008-March 2009. The hon. Member should note that the figures are recorded on the basis of 12 financial periods, not calendar months.

	£
Period 1	6,394
Period 2	5,845
Period 3	11,382
Period 4	9,501
Period 5	6,928
Period 6	4,762
Period 7	7,510
Period 8	7,761
Period 9	7,347
Period 10	4,684
Period 11	5,386
Period 12	7,414
Total 2008-09	84,924

Food waste is currently mixed with the general waste stream and sent to disposal facilities in the London area obtaining energy from waste. A review of alternative schemes, such as the commercial collection of food waste for transportation to an anaerobic digestion facility, has been scheduled for 2009-10.

Furniture

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many items of office furniture were *(a)* purchased and *(b)* disposed of by the House of Commons Commission in each of the last three years; and what estimate the Commission has made of the (i) weight and (ii) total value of each category. [275510]

Nick Harvey: Figures for the monetary value of office furniture purchased in each of the last three years are: £380,557 (2006), £1,079,461 (2007) and £392,387 (2008). The monetary value of office furniture disposed of in the same period is recorded only back to 2008; the figure in that year was £2,614.91. The weight of items is not recorded and so cannot be quantified per annum.

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission at what meetings the House of Commons Commission has considered implementation of amendment (f) of 3 July 2008 on the designation of second homes and capital gains tax; what decision was reached; what legal advice was sought and given; and which Members were in attendance. [276173]

Nick Harvey: Matters which relate to the Members Estimate are considered by the Members Estimate Committee rather than the House of Commons Commission. I will contact the hon. Member.

Palace of Westminster: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Davidson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much has been spent on improving or renovating accommodation in the House of Commons part of the Palace of Westminster in each of the last five years. [274678]

Nick Harvey: The amount spent by the House of Commons on improving and renovating the Palace of Westminster has been:

	£000
2004-05	6,183
2005-06	7,524
2006-07	10,057
2007-08	9,743
2008-09	2,599

This excludes general maintenance costs, some of which are incurred across the whole Estate, and expenditure on security related projects. The Palace is shared with the House of Lords who account for their share of the costs incurred separately.

Pay

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* gross annual income from the House of Commons and *(b)* job title was of each of the (i) officers and (ii) staff of the House of Commons who earned more than a backbench hon. Member in 2008-09. [275706]

Nick Harvey: The basic salary payable to Members is £63,291 per annum as at 31 March 2009. As at that date, 89 employees were paid a gross annual salary above this figure; of these 82 were Officers of the House and seven were staff of the House.

The provision of a list of these posts would allow individual staff to be identified which is contrary to House policy on data protection. A list of the posts in the House of Commons senior structure and at pay band A1, which have pay band maxima higher than Members' current salary was placed in the Library in April 2009 in response to the question from the right hon. and learned Member for Sleaford and North Hykeham (Mr. Hogg), on 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 739W.

Details of the staff pay bands and staff pay arrangements are available on the parliamentary intranet. The salaries of Members of the Management Board are disclosed in the House of Commons: Administration annual accounts.

Procurement

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many paper receipts were issued to suppliers by the House authorities in each of the last three years. [275506]

Nick Harvey: Receipts are issued at catering and retail outlets in the House of Commons but there is no business need to keep records of numbers. During the summer opening of the Palace of Westminster to the public, receipts are issued to visitors purchasing tickets by credit card but the numbers are not readily available. The Parliamentary Bookshop issued the following number of paper receipts based on till transactions:

2008-09: 20,734

2007-08: 19,991.

Information about the bookshop in 2006-07 is not available in the form requested, but is believed to be similar to the later years.

Vending Machines

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many vending machines there are on the House of Commons estate; and what the energy rating of each such machine is. [275513]

Nick Harvey: There are a total of 13 vending machines in operation on the House of Commons estate.

No information is available about the energy rating of each machine.

However, the machines are scheduled for replacement later this year and energy efficiency, including the use of timers and sensors, will be taken into account when selecting replacement models.

TRANSPORT

A64

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the cost of the recent installation of warning signs for overhead cables on the A64 York to Scarborough road was; [276027]

(2) how many *(a)* road traffic and *(b)* other accidents or incidents there have been on the A64 York to Scarborough road caused by or involving vehicles hitting overhead lines in the last three months; [276028]

(3) what risk assessment was carried out prior to the installation of overhead cable warning signs on the A64 York to Scarborough road; [276029]

(4) how many individual overhead cable warning signs have been erected on the A64 since 1 January 2009. [276111]

Paul Clark: 424 overhead cable warning signs have been erected on the A64 since 1 January 2009 at a cost of approximately £50,000.

There have been no road traffic accidents or other incidents on the A64 York to Scarborough road caused by or involving vehicles hitting overhead lines in the last three months.

A project specific risk assessment was undertaken to identify a safe method of erection and maintenance of these signs. Prior to any maintenance activity on the A64 a scheme specific risk assessment is undertaken to identify hazards, including overhead power cables, and to ensure risks to road workers are mitigated. The marker posts also enable the emergency services to more easily identify overhead power lines as part of their risk assessment when attending an incident.

British Transport Police: ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many and what proportion of British Transport Police computers malware was detected in 2008. [275392]

Paul Clark: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of malicious attacks against their IT systems and those of the bodies for which they are responsible.

The British Transport police have a policy on managing risks posed by all forms of malicious software ('malware').

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* administrative and *(b)* financial consequences of reimbursement being made by central Government to bus operators for the concessionary bus fare scheme. [275543]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has recently published a consultation paper on possible changes to the administration of concessionary travel. Option 3 within this consultation paper is for the administration of the statutory minimum bus concession to be moved to central Government and for bus operators to be reimbursed through national negotiation with the Department.

If this option was chosen following the consultation, the Department would need to undertake further detailed assessment of the administrative and financial consequences of such a model.

The draft impact assessment that was published alongside the consultation sets out the Department's initial assessment of such a move. A move to central administration and reimbursement would bring with it a number of complexities, including the potential for duplication of reimbursement negotiations if enhanced concessions continue to be offered at a local level. In addition to any transitional start-up costs, the Department currently estimates a move to central administration would have an average annual cost of £8 million, offset by average annual savings to local authorities of £10.6 million.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275247]

Mr. Hoon: The amount of end-of-year non-consolidated performance payments paid to all staff and senior civil service staff in the Department for Transport is shown in the table.

	All staff	*SCS*
Overall number of staff	19,493	187
Number receiving end year non-consolidated performance payments	13,332	139
End year non-consolidated performance payments amount (£)	9,813,937	1,344,831

Total pay bill was £643,685,777, of which 1.73 per cent., was used for non-consolidated performance payments to staff. The mean payment made was £736 for all staff and £9,675 for senior civil service.

Driving: Licensing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of applications for driving licence renewals were rejected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such rejected applications resulted in a retest in each of those years. [275496]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held in the form requested.

Driving: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many assessments under the Driving Quality Monitoring scheme were conducted in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* Strathclyde in the 2008-09 financial year; and how many of the assessments in each area found the quality of driving to be unacceptable. [275215]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 13 May 2009]:* The following assessments were conducted under the Driver Quality Monitoring Scheme in 2008-09.

	Greater London	*Greater Manchester*
Assessments	7,237	908
Unacceptable drives	1,591	387
Percentage	21	42

The Driving Standards Agency's last Driver Quality Monitoring contract in Strathclyde terminated in January 2007.

The data from the assessment is collated and reported back to the client on the next day, for potential remedial action. For those assessments recording dangerous faults the bus company is notified on the day of the assessment. In all cases the client is responsible for any further action.

Ferries

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements there are on UK ferry operators on routes of less than 20 miles in terms of *(a)* passenger loading limits and *(b)* records to be kept of the numbers of people boarding their vessels. [276112]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1420-421W.

In addition:

Passenger loading limits

The Department for Transport places no absolute limit on the number of passengers that may be carried on any class of passenger ships (with the exception of classes VI and VIA, which have very restricted operations and are limited to a maximum of 250 and 50 passengers respectively). In general the vessel operator may design and equip the vessel to carry the number of passengers they believe there is market demand for.

Regulations then require that appropriate standards of safety are provided to meet the risks posed by the vessel's service and the number of passengers carried. These address areas such as intact stability, freeboard, damage survivability, fire protection, provision of lifesaving appliances, manning levels, safety management, pollution prevention—in each case, the greater the number of passengers and the longer the voyage, the more comprehensive the technical requirements so as to ensure a level of safety appropriate to the risk. Other regulations also apply, but are independent of the number of passengers on board, e.g. for safety of navigation or provision of radios.

Instructions to surveyors and other departmental guidance lay down requirements for passenger accommodation and seating, provision of sanitary facilities, and provisions for persons of reduced mobility. While this guidance does not have the force of law, surveyors will not recommend issue of a passenger certificate unless the vessel meets the required standards.

On completion of surveys which take account of the above factors, the end result is the issue of a Passenger Certificate, which stipulates the maximum number of passengers and the total number of persons on board (including crew) that can be safely carried, and the minimum freeboard corresponding to the maximum draught (loading limit) which is marked on the side of the ship.

Passenger counting

The Master is prohibited by The Merchant Shipping (Survey and Certification) Regulations 1995 from having on board a greater number of passengers than that stated on the ship's Passenger Certificate. He is assisted in meeting this obligation by the Merchant Shipping (Counting and Registration of Persons on Board Passenger Ships) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No. 1869), supported by Merchant Shipping Notice 1794, which describes practical methods for counting and registering passengers.

For voyages of less than 20 miles, the regulations require a count of passengers and crew and for this information to be held ashore for the duration of the voyage.

This information is used to check compliance with safety regulations, and for search and rescue authorities, in the event of an incident.

First Great Western: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to monitor First Great Western's performance in delivering its financial commitments since the last review. [272996]

Paul Clark: Officials meet First Great Western at least every four weeks to review progress of the franchise. The franchise agreement sets out a standard agenda for these meetings, which includes financial performance and performance of the franchisee in meeting its contractual commitments. The Department for Transport is satisfied that First Great Western is meeting its financial commitments.

First Great Western: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train services have been cancelled by First Great Western in the last 12 months. [272997]

Paul Clark: In the 12 months to 30 March 2009, 7,024 First Great Western trains were cancelled. Of this total, 3,055 cancellations were attributable to First Great Western itself, the others being caused by Network Rail or by other train operators. These figures include partial cancellations (where a train departs but does not complete its planned journey).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the performance of First Great Western in delivering its commitment to improve service reliability. [272998]

Paul Clark: Officials meet First Great Western at least every four weeks to review overall progress of the franchise. Officials also meet First Great Western at the milestone reporting sessions contractualised in the remedial agreement to review progress in reducing train cancellations against the provisions of that agreement. First Great Western is currently compliant with the cancellations reduction trajectory contained in the remedial agreement.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Fines

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* speeding fines, *(b)* London congestion charge fines and *(c)* parking fines were incurred by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last four years for which information is available; how much was incurred in total in each category; and if he will make a statement. [275833]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 204W, given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

Lighting

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of lamp posts maintained by local authorities in England and in use which are beyond their design life; and if he will make a statement. [276038]

Paul Clark: It is for each local authority to decide how to manage its street lighting systems and the Department for Transport does not regularly collect information on street lighting column age. In order to inform the local transport plan capital allocations, in 2006 the Department asked English local authorities outside London to report the number of columns they had aged 40 years or more. At that time, authorities reported 771,900 columns; but this figure has not been independently verified, and may include some columns no longer in use.

The Department encourages local authorities to adopt an asset management approach to maintaining their highways assets, including basing decisions on accurate inventory and condition data rather than notional design lives.

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the level of provision of disabled parking spaces in England. [275811]

Paul Clark: Provision of disabled parking spaces is covered by Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation. The Department for Transport has published the 'Inclusive Mobility' guidance document to help service providers (such as local authorities and car park operators) to meet their requirements under the DDA. Powers exist for disabled people to challenge service providers who they believe do not meet their DDA requirements.

We are working with the British Parking Association and British Council of Shopping Centres to look at the adequacy of existing provision of off-street disabled parking spaces.

Railways: EU Countries

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made for benchmarking purposes of the proportion of travel undertaken by rail in continental European countries. [275480]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not made an estimate for benchmarking purposes of the proportion of travel undertaken by rail compared to continental European countries. The Eurostat publication, "Key figures on Europe 2009 edition" contains a selection of key transport statistics including estimates of rail travel by country. It can be found on the Eurostat website at

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-EI-08-001/EN/KS-EI-08-001-EN.PDF

Railways: Fares

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to establish a nationally-available frequent user railcard. [272849]

Paul Clark: It is not our intention to establish a nationally available frequent user railcard. Any new railcard offering discounts, would need to be revenue generative for the industry as otherwise, under the current system, it would require Government subsidy. There is no current evidence that such a railcard would generate revenue.

Some season tickets already offer loyalty style discounts, such as the "gold card" for annual season tickets in the south-east—offering one third off off-peak travel in the south-east.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations his Department has received from train operating companies on the financial viability of extant rail franchises. [274389]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has regular discussions with all train operators who have franchise contracts with the Government as part of our ongoing monitoring system.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train services on the East Coast Main Line have been cancelled by National Express since it assumed the franchise; how many were cancelled by GNER in each of the last five years of its existence; and if he will make a statement. [275033]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the number of cancellations.

Franchisee	*Reporting period*	*Full cancellations*
GNER	1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	661
	1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	559
	1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	546
	1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	805
	1 April 2007 to 8 December 2007	763
NXEC	9 December 2007 to 31 March 2008	234
	1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	625

In the last five years of its existence, GNER cancelled an average of 55 trains per month. Since taking over the East Coast franchise, National Express East Coast (NXEC) have cancelled an average of 51 trains per month. This is against a backdrop of an increased number of services. Having established themselves in the franchise, NXEC have significantly improved performance.

Since the start of the NXEC franchise, the PPM Moving Annual Average (MAA) has risen from 81.2 per cent. to 86.9 per cent. In the last four weeks, period ending 31 March 2009, NXEC cancelled 37 trains and achieved a record PPM of 91.9 per cent.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 488-89W, on roads: accidents, how many drivers of each type of vehicle involved in incidents causing cyclists' deaths in the last five years had *(a)* a UK and *(b)* a non-UK driving licence. [276214]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held centrally.

Virgin Trains

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what topics were raised in the discussions his Department has had with Virgin Trains in the last six months. [274390]

Paul Clark: In the last six months, Department for Transport officials met Virgin West Coast every four weeks to review the financial, operational and contractual performance of the franchise. In addition, Ministers and senior officials from the Department held separate meetings with Virgin West Coast to discuss implementation of the December 2008 timetable and subsequent performance issues.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* rural farms and

(b) smallholdings each local authority holds; and how many have been vacant for longer than (i) three and (ii) six months. [275804]

Jane Kennedy: The annual report to Parliament on smallholdings in England provides details of the numbers of statutory smallholdings held by local authorities analysed according to size of holding. This information is set out in the following table. DEFRA does not hold information regarding the number of smallholdings that are vacant or the duration of vacancies, and it would be for individual local authorities to provide these details.

The latest published annual report is the 57th Report for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, which is available in the Library of the House and can also be seen on the DEFRA website.

Analysis of smallholdings by size at 31 March 2007

	Number of holdings			
County/unitary authority	*0 to 20 ha*	*20 to 40 ha*	*Over 40 ha*	*Total*
Bedfordshire	83	30	25	138
Berkshire West	—	2	1	3
Bournemouth	5	1	1	7
Brighton and Hove	24	4	23	51
Buckinghamshire	35	17	14	66
Cambridgeshire	137	67	140	344
Cheshire	58	51	28	137
City of York	2	—	2	4
Cornwall	10	51	51	112
Cumbria	6	8	—	14
Devon	6	32	53	91
Dorset	6	28	32	66
Durham	1	2	12	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	65	54	17	136
East Sussex	—	1	1	2
Essex	8	3	—	11
Gloucestershire	56	49	31	136
Hampshire	40	8	18	66
Hartlepool	—	1	1	2
Herefordshire	4	48	9	61
Hertfordshire	23	18	21	62
Lancashire	2	—	—	2
Leicestershire	10	52	20	82
Lincolnshire	120	84	76	280
Medway	2	—	1	3
Milton Keynes	5	2	5	12
Norfolk	116	54	70	240
Northamptonshire	8	5	2	15
North Lincolnshire	17	1	—	18
North Somerset	5	1	5	11
Northumberland	1	—	6	7
North Yorkshire	16	44	18	78
Nottinghamshire	12	6	1	19
Oxfordshire	34	5	2	41
Peterborough	12	1	15	28
Shropshire	25	17	1	43
Slough	1	—	—	1
Somerset	17	41	31	89
South Gloucestershire	8	6	4	18
Staffordshire	48	68	19	135
Suffolk	15	20	67	102
Surrey	41	13	6	60
Swindon	4	9	6	19
Thurrock	6	3	2	11
Torbay	2	—	—	2
Warrington	3	2	—	5
Warwickshire	36	19	20	75
West Sussex	14	2	5	21
Wiltshire	22	27	22	71
Worcestershire	96	20	10	126
Total	1,267	977	894	3,138

Note:
Extract from the 57th annual report to Parliament on smallholdings in England.

Agriculture: Land

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hectares of farmland of best and most valued status in England have changed to a developed use since 1996-97. [275764]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not held centrally on the area of farmland of best and most valued status that has changed to developed use. The Department's Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS) can provide estimates for changes to developed use from all agriculture, in hectares.

Estimates up to 2006 are available in LUCS Live Table 261

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/xls/1133773.xls

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to bring forward those provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which are not yet in force; and if he will make a statement. [273876]

Jane Kennedy: The following provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 have yet to be brought into force:

Section 8(3) to (6) on recordings of animal fights;

Schedule 3 in so far as it relates to the repeal of Section 2 of the Pet Animals Act 1951 (which makes it an offence to sell a pet in the street);

Schedule 4 in so far as it relates to the repeal of Section 2 of the Pet Animals Act 1951 and the repeal of Sections 37 to 39 (which provides that Ministers may make orders relating to the transport and export of animals) and paragraph 8 of Schedule 5 (Consequential Amendments) of the Animal Health Act 1981.

There is no timetable in place for the commencement of these provisions.

Animals: Clones

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* cloned animals and *(b)* offspring of cloned animals there are in England. [275939]

Jane Kennedy: All cloning of animals for research, medical or agricultural purposes in the UK must be approved by the Home Office under the strict controls of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

This information is not collated by DEFRA.

Badgers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria are used to assess applications for removal licences in respect of badgers. [275441]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 includes provision for licences to be issued for specific listed purposes. Licences are issued only where it is demonstrated that three conditions are met:

a licence is required (i.e. badgers or their setts are causing or likely to cause a serious problem or are preventing legitimate operations);

there is no alternative to issuing a licence (i.e. other methods have been shown to be ineffective or impractical and not just difficult to implement); and

the activity to be licensed is likely to resolve or contribute to resolving the matter for which it has been issued.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long on average elapsed between the end of the badger winter hibernation season and the commencement of approved work to remove badgers from unsuitable situations in the last five years. [275680]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Badgers do not hibernate as such but the licensing approach is attuned to sensitive periods such as the breeding season. Natural England, as the licensing authority, does not however record the time elapsed between the end of the badger breeding season and the commencement of licensed action.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date the decision was made to reduce the cost of bluetongue vaccine to livestock holders; and what the reasons for the decision were. [275801]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA announced on 7 May that remaining bluetongue vaccine stocks will be discounted by 50 per cent.

Reduced uptake during 2009 may leave the national herd and flock vulnerable to further incursions of BTV-8. The Government hold unused stocks which are reaching their expiry dates, leaving the tax payer with a potential liability of £3.3 million if unsold.

The decision to cut the price of Government-owned vaccine has not been taken lightly. The situation is now very different to early 2008, when Government-owned vaccine was the only product available to protect livestock from BTV-8. Government-owned surplus is now competing against vaccines available on the open market, and the pricing is extremely competitive. There is also a need to remove Government-owned stock from the supply chain to allow the market place to operate as normally as possible.

A number of options were investigated and after careful consideration with industry and veterinary stakeholders on the Bluetongue Core Group, we decided that dropping the price of the vaccine was the best approach in order to mitigate financial losses to the taxpayer and reduce vaccine wastage.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the transmission of bovine tuberculosis to (i) pigs and (ii) domestic animals from wildlife. [275802]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has not commissioned any research into the spread of bovine TB from wildlife to pigs and other domestic animals. However, DEFRA has been funding passive surveillance in domestic and zoo animal species for several years. This consists of a free post-mortem and culture service for suspect cases of TB provided by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

The principal species affected by bovine TB in Great Britain are cattle and badgers. While small numbers of companion animal species and many wild animal species have been shown to be infected with bovine TB, most are spillover hosts. There is some indirect evidence of transmission from spillover hosts though it is uncertain how often this is occurring.

TB is not normally considered to be particularly contagious amongst pigs or to spread easily from pigs to other animals. In most cases, the disease is self-limiting and no extensive TB control measures are required. We are, however, likely to continue to observe sporadic incidents of porcine TB due to M. bovis on farms where pigs and cattle are co-located and in outdoor breeding-fattening units in the south-west of England and west midlands.

Even in areas where TB in cattle and badgers is quite common, not all badgers or family groups will be infected. Even in areas of high TB incidence in cattle and badgers, TB in domestic animals is rare.

Cattle: Mastitis

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of mastitis in dairy cattle to the dairy industry in each of the last three years; how many cases of mastitis there were in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [274925]

Jane Kennedy: Mastitis is not a notifiable disease hence reporting of mastitis diagnoses is voluntary. The levels of endemic diseases, such as mastitis in the cattle population of Great Britain (GB) are monitored through the DEFRA-funded Veterinary Laboratories Agency's (VLA) Endemic Disease Surveillance Programme. This is performed by analysis of test results from clinical diagnostic samples (usually milk samples in the case of mastitis cases) submitted by veterinary surgeons to the VLA regional laboratories and to the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) disease surveillance centres for investigation.

The VLA surveillance provides information on the causes of mastitis and their trends. The relative proportions of GB mastitis diagnoses attributed to a specific pathogen are monitored—results for 2008 are shown in the following table. The proportions of infection were similar for recent years.

	Percentage
Staphylococcus aureus	15
Streptococcus uberis	23
Streptococcus dysgalactiae	6
Streptococcus agalactiae	1
Escherichia coli	18
Other organism(s)	20
No microbial growth	5
Sample contamination	12

Source:
GB Surveillance Cattle Diseases Quarterly Report October to December 2008.

The data available shows the mastitis pathogens isolated as a result of veterinarians submitting samples to these government laboratories and therefore do not provide an unbiased or comprehensive estimate of the occurrence of the condition in GB. The VLA is not contracted to determine the cost of mastitis to the dairy industry and cost cannot be determined from this data.

The control of endemic diseases such as mastitis, that mainly affect the health and productivity of individual cattle herds, are primarily the responsibility of the owner and his veterinary surgeon. Industry milk recording organisations provide recording through monitoring of somatic cell counts in milk samples, which gives an indication of the presence of mastitis when somatic cell counts are elevated. DairyCo is the relevant levy-funded industry body with responsibility for promotion of the dairy industry and they keep national data on milk recording results.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273559]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to my earlier reply given to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central (Jenny Willott) on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 506W.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effect on the management of bio-waste in the European Union on household waste collections in England of implementation of the proposals in the European Commission's Green Paper. [275763]

Jane Kennedy: The European Commission's Green Paper explores a wide range of options in relation to the management of bio-waste in the EU, but contains no firm proposals. Therefore the Government have made no assessment.

The Commission will undertake a formal impact analysis of possible policy or legislative proposals later this year. The Government do not expect any firm proposals before 2010.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, what the volume of waste for recycling collected from doorsteps was as a proportion of the total volume of waste collected from doorsteps in each local authority area in the latest period for which information is available. [276113]

Jane Kennedy: A table showing waste collected for recycling and reuse from kerbsides as a percentage of total household waste collected as part of the ordinary waste collection service has been placed in the house Library. The table provides figures for each English local authority for the financial year 2007-08.

Floods: Property Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what data the Environment Agency obtains about proposed developments to assess the implications of flood risk. [275475]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency is a consultee in the planning process. The data the Environment Agency receives about proposed development from local planning authorities includes its location and nature and assessments of flood risk. This should demonstrate that the type of development is appropriate for that location and will be safe from flooding over its lifetime, while not increasing flood risk to others.

Fly Tipping

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend, the Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 99W, on fly-tipping, if he will place in the Library a copy of the CD-ROM being distributed to local authorities. [275777]

Jane Kennedy: The CD-ROM has not yet been distributed to local authorities, as some additions are currently being made to the content. A copy will be placed in the Library as soon as it is published, which will be shortly.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in each local authority area in London in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [275989]

(2) how many enforcement actions relating to fly-tipping have been taken in each local authority area in London in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [275990]

(3) how many prosecutions for fly-tipping offences in each local authority area in London have been brought in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [275991]

Jane Kennedy: I am placing information in the Library of the House on the number of incidents of fly-tipping, the number of prosecutions taken against fly-tippers and the number of other enforcement actions relating to the prevention of fly-tipping reported as being taken in each local authority in London in each of the last four years. Data on fly-tipping in 2008-09 will be published later this year.

Other enforcement actions that can be taken against suspected fly-tippers and to prevent incidents are investigations, warning letters, statutory notices, fixed penalty notices, duty of care inspections, stop and searches, formal cautions and injunctions. From 2009-10, data will also be collected on the number of vehicles seized from those suspected of involvement in fly-tipping.

Food: VAT

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent *(a)* representations he has received on and *(b)* assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of value added tax on non-fresh food products in shops on (i) food prices and (ii) the retail prices index; and if he will make a statement. [273130]

Jane Kennedy: We have not received any recent representations on the introduction of value added tax on non-fresh food products and have made no assessment of the effect of introducing such a tax on food or the retail price index.

Food: Waste Disposal

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research into the amount of food waste used in ways other than being sent to landfill; and if he will make a statement. [275854]

Jane Kennedy: WRAP will commission a new survey that will aim to capture the amount of the UK's food waste currently going through in-vessel composting and anaerobic digestion facilities. The six-month survey will start at the end of 2009 and is currently planned to end in early 2010.

Recycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research into the effectiveness of local authorities' recycling schemes; and if he will make a statement. [275449]

Jane Kennedy: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme plans to commission any research into the effectiveness of local authorities' recycling schemes.

Sheep: Lameness

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided for research into lameness in sheep in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [274926]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA recognises the severe effect on farmers of lameness in sheep and has produced an advisory booklet on its control. Over the past three years DEFRA has provided funding for two research projects on this subject with a total expenditure of:

2006-07: £196,879

2007-08: £69,891

2008-09: £17,477.

One of the two projects was carried out jointly with the Scottish Executive and industry, and the level of expenditure referred to above represents the DEFRA contribution only.

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has also funded work on this topic.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has paid to the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management since WRAP's establishment. [275762]

Jane Kennedy: The only payment the Waste and Resources Action Programme has made to the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management is a membership fee of £1,125.

Water Supply

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with South East Water on *(a)* its plans to reduce leakage and *(b)* its proposal for a reservoir to increase water capacity. [276302]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat sets the water companies targets to reduce their leakage to the Economic Level of Leakage (ELL), the level of leakage at which it would cost more for a water company to further reduce its leakage than to produce water from an alternative source. South East Water has met its leakage targets since 2002 and is currently operating at the ELL. Since 1997, total leakage has been reduced by 30 per cent. in South East Water's area of supply.

The Secretary of State will shortly be making a decision on how preparation of the water resource management plan, which includes proposals for a reservoir near Ringmer, should proceed. Ministers have not met directly with South East Water to discuss its plan, although officials, especially at the Environment Agency, have done so.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how many current hon. Members have redesignated their main home for the purposes of the additional costs allowance on three or more occasions. [276044]

Chris Bryant: It is not possible to provide this information without going through each individual Member's paper records as the information as requested is not held electronically and nomination forms, indicating where a main and second home are located, were only required from 2003 onwards.

The answer could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members have redesignated their main home for the purposes of the additional costs allowance since 3 July 2008. [276056]

Chris Bryant: 10 hon. Members have redesignated which of their homes is their main and which is their second home since 3 July 2008.

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members submitted claims for reimbursement of mortgage payments on homes outside London under the additional costs allowance in the last 12 months. [276057]

Chris Bryant: 134 Members currently claim costs for homes that are outside London. Of these, 95 have claimed reimbursement of mortgage interest payments.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Leader of the House into which budget moneys paid back to the Fees Office by hon. Members relating to their expenses and allowances claims are paid. [276304]

Chris Bryant: All repayments will be credited to the House of Commons: Members Estimate.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Civil Service Agencies: Employment

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures his Department has in place to monitor compliance by its agencies with procedures on employment matters stipulated by the Civil Service Handbook; and how many cases of *(a)* unfair dismissal and *(b)* suspension have been upheld against the Youth Justice Agency by employment tribunals in each of the last three years. [273981]

Paul Goggins: There are personnel service agreements between the various agencies and personnel services division which set out the agreed working arrangements on personnel matters. In addition all recommendations for dismissal must be submitted to the establishment officer, DFP, who has responsibility for termination of employment. There have been no cases of *(a)* unfair dismissal or *(b)* suspension upheld against the Youth Justice Agency by employment tribunals in any of the last three years.

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274519]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office's complaints procedure is fully documented on the website at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/complaints.htm

The procedure covers complaints by telephone or in writing by letter or e-mail.

The facility to make a complaint via the website is not available.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275249]

Paul Goggins: Non-consolidated performance payments for Northern Ireland Office senior civil servants (SCS) are distributed in line with Cabinet Office guidance. The size of the consolidated performance pot is based on recommendations of the independent senior salaries review body. In 2008, 42 members of the SCS received end of year performance payment totalling £371,200 which is 8.6 per cent. of the pay bill. In line with current economic conditions the SCS non-consolidated performance payment pot for 2008-09 has been frozen.

Non-consolidated performance payments for staff below the SCS have been awarded to 20 per cent. of staff who are considered to meet the criteria for an award. In 2008, 367 staff received an end year performance payment totalling £292,675 which is 0.54 per cent. of the pay bill. Awards to be made in respect of 2008-09 remain at 0.54 per cent. and are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be earned each year against pre-determined targets and as such do not add to future pay bill costs. The award of performance payments help drive high performance.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274224]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows expenditure on IT training for its staff by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs, in each of the last five years:

	IT training (£000)
2004-05	30
2005-06	98
2006-07	113
2007-08	113
2008-09	[1]

[1] Not yet available

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* Minister and *(b)* civil servant has cross-departmental responsibility for the promotion of sustainable development in respect of public sector procurement policy. [272304]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

There are three pillars of sustainable development: environmental; social; and economic.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) has responsibility for the promotion of the environmental elements of sustainable development in departments' procurement activities and the operation of their estates.

I, as Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, have responsibility for all other aspects of Central Government procurement policy, including the promotion of the social and economic elements of sustainable development in departments' procurement activities.

The Secretary of State for the Environment (Hilary Benn) is responsible for policy on sustainable development in Government and sustainable products. He is also responsible for the sustainability policy underpinning Government's sustainable procurement commitments, with input from procurement experts in the Office of Government Commerce and other relevant organisations.

The Chief Sustainability and Operating Officer (William Jordan) is the civil servant responsible for working with Departments to ensure that the Government's sustainable operations on the Government Estate targets are met and that its sustainable procurement action plan is implemented. He reports to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Cabinet Office on his work.

The Chief Executive of OGC (Nigel Smith) is the civil servant responsible for all other aspects of Central Government procurement (including the promotion of social and economic elements of sustainable development). He reports to the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury.

Within central Government Departments, from 2008-09 all Permanent Secretaries' responsibility for improving sustainability has been highlighted in their personal objectives.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274518]

Ann McKechin: Complaints to the Scotland Office, where they cannot be resolved immediately, whether face-to-face or on the telephone or in writing, are allocated to a senior member of staff. Their responsibility is to investigate and provide a full reply in writing within 10 days of receipt of the complaint. Where it proves impossible to provide a full reply within 10 days, an interim reply is sent explaining the need for more time and indicating when the full reply will be sent. Details of the complaints procedure will shortly be posted on the Scotland Office's internet site, which is currently in the process of being updated.

Departmental Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each of the last five years. [275700]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office spent the following on bottled water, for water coolers in its premises in London and Edinburgh:

	Cost (£)
2003-04	2,382
2004-05	2,418
2005-06	1,879
2006-07	2,451
2007-08	2,880

These figures do not include any bottles of water that may have been supplied for ministerial hospitality events, as they would have been subsumed within suppliers' overall invoices and not recorded separately.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273748]

Ann McKechin: The combined Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate-General expenditure on furniture for departmental buildings in the last five years is as follows:

	Cost (£)
2003-04	4,454
2004-05	25,096
2005-06	16,995
2006-07	0
2007-08	2,384

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on the maintenance of its website in each year since 1997. [275701]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office only came in to existence on 1 July 1999. We do not hold a separate record of the cost of maintaining the Scotland Office website for the period 1999 to 2007.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 471W, to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) for the latest period for which figures are available.

Departmental Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff over the age of *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years of age are employed by his Department. [275694]

Ann McKechin: All the staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice who hold individual staff personnel records, including details such as dates of birth. The Office does not maintain a central record of dates of birth of staff.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department paid in end-of-year performan[illegible] to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* senior Civil Service st[illegible]8-09; and how many such payments were made. [275248]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. Staff may be eligible for end of year performance bonuses under their parent Department's performance management arrangements. The Scotland Office does not itself make the end of year awards and does not hold information centrally on end of year bonus payments made to its secondees.

Departmental Responsibilities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the concordats between the Government and the Scottish Executive. [273475]

Ann McKechin: The Government have been leading work to review the working arrangements with the devolved Administrations. We are close to finalising an updated version of the memorandum of understanding which governs the relationship between the UK Government and the three devolved administrations.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273771]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has incurred no costs on branded stationery and gifts for internal or external promotional use in the last five years.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274225]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not hold information in the form requested. The staff in the office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, both of whom provide free access to training and development opportunities, including a range of IT training specific to the software used.

Industrial Health and Safety

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on health and safety training for its staff in each of the last five years. [275693]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not hold information in the form requested. The staff in the Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, both of whom provide free access to training and development opportunities, including a range of health and safety events.

Isle of Lewis

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many visits he has made to the Isle of Lewis in an official capacity in the last 24 months. [275696]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, North the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, (Ann McKechin) visited the Isle of Lewis on the 7 and 8 May 2009 and I intend to visit next month.

Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on Scotland's role in hosting events and facilities associated with the London 2012 Olympic Games. [275698]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has not had any recent discussions with the First Minister. Earlier this month I met the Minister for the Olympics on her

visit to Glasgow and discussed Scotland's role in hosting events, during our visit at Scotstoun Leisure Centre and National Badminton Centre, which has been listed as one of the 30 facilities in Scotland as potential pre-Games training camps.

Sheep

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many sheep farms in Scotland he has visited in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [275703]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have not visited a sheep farm in Scotland in my official capacity.

Whisky

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had at EU level on the future prospects for the whisky industry. [275692]

Mr. Jim Murphy: DEFRA Ministers represent the UK Government in EU discussions on the whisky industry. I and my officials continue to have regular discussions with DEFRA and with the Scotch Whisky Association on issues affecting the Scotch Whisky industry.

As part of my recent trade mission to China, I visited the Edrington Group HQ in Shanghai and made representations to the Chinese Government on the importance of their taking steps to deal with counterfeit Scotch Whisky.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many whisky distilleries in Scotland he has visited in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [275695]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My predecessor, the right hon. Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) visited the Isle of Arran distillery in August. I met with Gavin Hewitt of the Scotch Whisky Association in November and my predecessor met with Mr. Hewitt in September. In December I hosted and spoke at a Scotch Whisky Association reception at the Scotland Office. I will be visiting a distillery with the Scotch Whisky Association in June. On a trade mission to China in March I visited Edrington Group, a Scottish international premium spirits company. I am currently in discussions with Diageo and will be visiting one of their distilleries in the near future.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the mission statement for employees of his Department in Afghanistan is. [275464]

Bill Rammell: The Mission of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate is to promote the national interests of the UK in South Asia, to contribute to regional stability and the FCO's strategic priorities, managing an effective network of posts in the region.

The specific mission of the Afghanistan Group within the wider directorate is to help Afghanistan achieve stability, security, prosperity, to the benefit of the Afghan people, the UK and the world community.

Conflict Prevention

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, under the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, what the original planned total allocation was for *(a)* South Asia, including Afghanistan, *(b)* Africa, *(c)* Europe and *(d)* the Middle East; and if he will make a statement. [267724]

Bill Rammell: The UK's total available conflict resource for FY 2009-10 (leaving aside the cost of UK military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq) is £627 million, compared with the original planned total allocation of £556 million.

As set out in the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17WS, £456 million will be set aside for assessed peacekeeping activity, leaving £171 million to fund all conflict prevention, stabilisation and discretionary peacekeeping activity.

Individual country/regional allocations were not set out in the comprehensive spending review. These were agreed after an annual tri-departmental (Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence) review of planned activity across all three funds.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [272118]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not incurred any expenditure to date on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2007/991).

A registered inspector was booked to carry out the inspections on 15 May 2009. The costs will be covered in the FCO's overarching facilities management contract, at no further cost to the Department.

Departmental Art Works

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 188-89W, on departmental art works, in which of the official residences used by his Department each of the works of art mentioned is. [273706]

Gillian Merron: All of the Government art collection works listed in my previous answer are located in Flat 2, Admiralty House.

Departmental Billing

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the names and addresses are of each organisation which has supplied goods and services to his Department in 2009. [273703]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 387W.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274304]

Gillian Merron: 19 members of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff have been dismissed for inefficiency (which covers failure of sick absence procedures and poor performance) and eight members of FCO Services (FCOS) staff have been dismissed for under-performance.

43 members of FCO staff have been dismissed since 2004 and 24 members of FCOS staff have been dismissed in total over the last 10 years.

Departmental Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes to services provided by his Department he anticipates following the efficiency savings outlined in the Budget Red Book 2009. [273682]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will deliver the government target for comprehensive spending review (CSR) value for money savings (CSR07) and the additional savings allocated for 2010-11 whilst continuing to provide a global network for the Government overseas. We will continue to deliver on FCO priorities including our departmental strategic objectives (DSOs), public service agreements (PSAs) and the long-term international challenges facing the UK as outlined in the FCO's Strategic Framework.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273557]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has taken an active role in the Greening Government Information and Communications Technology (ICT) strategy by providing a detailed plan for the FCO. The plan includes the baseline of the FCO's current carbon footprint and a number of initiatives that cover the full life-cycle of our ICT, including how we procure, operate and dispose of equipment. We are also looking at how use of ICT will enable savings outside of ICT itself through videoconferencing and collaboration initiatives that reduce the need for travel. This process is integrated into our ICT strategy.

Departmental Official Cars

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidelines his Department has in place on the procurement of cars for official use *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* in UK Overseas Territories and *(c)* at diplomatic posts overseas. [273661]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) guidance for the procurement of cars for official use in the UK, in UK Overseas Territories and at diplomatic posts overseas is as follows:

Purchasing flag vehicles

Procurement of vehicles for the FCO is based on achieving value for money and in a manner which conforms to appropriate UK regulations and EU directives. Where they are readily available and represent value for money, we prefer the FCO in the UK and British missions abroad to buy British cars.

Currently the FCO's preferred supplier for flag vehicles is Jaguar for saloon cars, and Land or Range Rover where four wheel drive capability is essential. The FCO maintains central contracts with these companies, negotiated to ensure value for money. In general flag vehicles will be on a par with the vehicles allocated to Government Ministers in London. The particular model allocated to individual posts will reflect local circumstances.

Posts which consider that there are overriding reasons not to purchase flag cars manufactured by our preferred suppliers, have to submit a detailed case for ministerial approval in London.

Purchasing pool vehicles

Posts have delegated authority to purchase pool vehicles within agreed costs for vehicle purchase. Decisions taken under this delegation have to meet value for money criteria and must always include examination of the option to buy suitable vehicles available under the central contracts referred to above.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274505]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) operates through a network of overseas posts and directorates in London who may independently contract conference and banqueting services. The information requested therefore is not held centrally by the FCO and to obtain it for the last five years would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274485]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Human Resources Directorate offered the following numbers of work placements:

	School Pupils	University Students	Number Graduates
2008	10	45	10
2007	10	35	20
2006	10	34	20

These figures do not include ad-hoc placements organised by individual directorates.

To collect this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Our records before 2006 are incomplete and as a result we do not hold information on the educational status of individuals to whom we offered work placements in 2005 and 2004.[1]From 1999 to 2008, FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, participated in the Equal Choices Schools Initiative programme. They take 16 children annually from ethnic minority backgrounds, who spend two days gaining an insight into their work.

All individuals undertaking work experience at FCO Services were in full-time education.

France

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on international security with the French government. [276666]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular in-depth discussions with the French Government on international security issues. Most recently, at the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the European Union on 18 May 2009, he had a wide-ranging discussion with French and other European counterparts.

G20: Greater London

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who he expects to participate in the G20 summit in London in March 2009; what gifts each participant will receive; what the cost of each such gift is; how much is being spent on *(a)* catering and *(b)* catering facilities; if he will place in the Library a copy of the menu for each official dinner during the summit; how much is being spent per person at each dinner; and if he will make a statement. [276501]

Gillian Merron: All of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's counterparts who were invited participated in the G20 summit in London on 2 April 2009. These were as follows:

Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President, Argentina
Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister, Australia
Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President, Brazil
Stephen Harper, Prime Minister, Canada
Hu Jintao, President, China
Nicolas Sarkozy, President, France
Angela Merkel, Chancellor, Germany
Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, India
Susilo Bambang, President, Indonesia
Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister, Italy
Taro Aso, Prime Minister, Japan
Lee Myung-Bak, President, Republic of Korea
Felipe Calderón, President, Mexico
Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister, The Netherlands
Dmitry Medvedev, President, Russia
HRH King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al Saud, Saudi Arabia
Kgalema Motlanthe, President, South Africa
José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Prime Minister, Spain
Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister, Turkey
Barack Obama, President, United States of America
Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva of Thailand, Chair of ASEAN
Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek of the Czech Republic, EU Presidency
José Manuel Barroso, President, European Commission
Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, Chair of NEPAD
Mario Draghi, Head of Financial Stability Forum
Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director, IMF
Youssoff Boutros-Ghali, Chair of IMFC
Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General
Robert B. Zoellick, President, World Bank Group
Pascal Lammy, Director General, World Trade Organisation.

Gifts were only given to heads of delegations and their spouses. These were hampers of British products. The total amount spent for all gifts was £3,566.23.

At present we are unable to provide a final figure for the costs of the catering for the summit, but hope to be able to publish those figures in the coming weeks along with the total costs of the London summit.

Copies of the menus for each official dinner will be placed in the Library of the House.

Germany

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on international security with the German Government. [276659]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular in-depth discussions with the German Government on international security issues. Most recently, at the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the European Union on 18 May 2009, he had a wide-ranging discussion with German and other European counterparts.

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what events held in Israel to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tel Aviv HM Ambassador to Israel he has been invited, what such invitations the Ambassador has *(a)* accepted and *(b)* declined; and if he will make a statement. [276646]

Bill Rammell: Our ambassador has received several invitations to attend events relating to the 100th anniversary of Tel Aviv. So far he has been able to attend the opening of "The British Season", a specially created programme of film and music events by the British Council designed to mark the anniversary; a reception in the Sarona gardens organised by Tel Aviv Municipality; and the dedication of a school for children with neurological difficulties built with the assistance of the UK Friends of the Tel Aviv Foundation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what events held in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Israel to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel he has been invited; what such invitations he has (i) accepted and (ii) declined; and if he will make a statement. [275617]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary accepted an invitation to deliver a speech on 5 May 2009 at an event hosted by the Israeli embassy in London to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what events held in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Israel to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel the Prime Minister has been invited; what such invitations he has (i) accepted and (ii) declined; and if he will make a statement. [275619]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister did not attend any events commemorating the 61st anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. However, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended an event hosted by the Israeli embassy in London on 5 May 2009 where he delivered a speech.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the alleged take-over by Hamas of a ward in Shifa Hospital, Gaza, and its use by Hamas as a command and control centre; and if he will make a statement. [275526]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports of Hamas representatives operating out of Shifa hospital during the recent conflict. We condemn any use of hospitals for non-medical purposes that could endanger the patients and staff. The UK continues to regard Hamas as a terrorist organisation and to call for it to renounce all violence, recognise Israel and adhere to previous agreements with the Palestinians.

Middle East: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Arab governments on (i) economic and (ii) diplomatic relations between Arab governments and the State of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [275527]

Bill Rammell: We believe that the Arab peace initiative (API) provides the best path towards achieving normal economic and diplomatic relations between Arab Governments and the state of Israel. The API offers full normalisation of relations with Israel in exchange for withdrawal from occupied land. We frequently emphasise the importance of the API, including in discussions with Israel and Arab Governments; my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did so in his UN Security Council intervention on 11 May 2009.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on the military and political situation in Pakistan. [273319]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed the situation in Pakistan with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 12 May 2009. We shared our concerns about the threat violent extremism poses to the Pakistani state. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials also continue to hold frequent discussions about the situation in Pakistan with a wide range of US officials.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effect of payments of ransom money following pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden on the activities of *(a)* Islamic militants in Somalia and *(b)* terrorist groups in the region; and if he will make a statement. [270993]

David Miliband: We are aware that the majority of pirates operating off the coast of Somalia organise their activities in the Puntland region. However, we do not have the capabilities within Somalia to monitor the movement of ransom monies around Somalia.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Somalia on the number of piracy incidents in the Gulf of Aden in recent months. [273144]

Gillian Merron: Piracy has been discussed in many meetings with the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia. In addition to regular meetings between officials at our high commission in Nairobi and representatives of the TFG, my noble Friends the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN (The Lord Malloch-Brown), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, (The Lord West of Spithead), and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Lewis) all discussed piracy with the Somali Deputy Prime Minister, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, during his visit to the UK on 20 April 2009. Sharif Hassan confirmed the TFG is committed to helping tackle this issue.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects of poverty in the region on numbers of acts of piracy in the Gulf of Aden. [274324]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia is a symptom of the ongoing instability and lack of economic opportunities in the horn of Africa. Although the security situation makes it difficult to access the region to conduct a full assessment, it is likely that poverty in rural communities in Puntland is one of several contributing factors.

The UK is taking a leading role in the international response to piracy by offering the Operation HQ and Commander for the EU's Counter Piracy operation. We also chair a working group looking to enhance regional co-operation and co-ordination. This working group is also looking to highlight regional capacity-building requirements that will aim to address the longer term causes of piracy.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the ability of the transitional government in Somalia to provide for its citizens. [274323]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* The Transitional Federal Government have stated that its priorities are reconciliation, security and the development of governmental institutions. Given Somalia's recent history, it faces considerable challenges. However, it is receiving international support and has produced an initial three-month budget, which harnesses port revenue to enable the re-establishment of key Ministries in Mogadishu to take its priorities forward.

Tibet: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 807-08W, on Tibet: human rights, what reports he has received on the compliance with international standards of the trials of individuals arrested in connection with the disturbances in Tibet in March 2008. [272629]

Bill Rammell: We have received a number of reports from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) stating that the trials of those connected with the disturbances in Tibet in March 2008 were not compliant with international standards, and that the evidence against the individuals concerned was unsound and the convictions therefore unsafe. We have consistently expressed our concern at the need for proper due process for all those detained, and our belief that any trials should be conducted justly, fairly and transparently. The fact that independent observers were not allowed at these trials means that we have been unable to verify that the human rights of the defendants were respected, and that the trials were free from political interference. This, together with the reports from NGOs, does give us real cause for concern, as does the verdict of the death penalty, to which the UK is opposed in principle. As a consequence, and working closely with our EU counterparts, we are urging the Chinese authorities not to carry out the sentences imposed on those convicted. I made these points in similar terms in my written response to Free Tibet and the Tibet Society at the beginning of May.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 634W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional annual value of such provision is. [271932]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides each recognised trade union representative with their own furnished office, networked computer with e-mail/internet access and a telephone. Trade union representatives have shared access to photocopiers, duplicating and printing services, file storage and fax machines. The FCO meets day-to-day running costs within the rules of public expenditure set out in FCO guidance. Such costs include: rents; building maintenance; stationery; office and IT equipment; telephone charges; official travel; security; corporate overheads; capital charges and depreciation.

Based on full economic cost figures (calculated in line with HM Treasury requirements) for the 2008-09 financial year, the notional annual value of this provision for each recognised trade union is:

	£
Public and Commercial Services Union (2 officers)	80,900
The Diplomatic Service Association (DSA) (1 officer)	40,450
Prospect (1 officer)	40,450

In addition to trade union representatives, the FCO provides four full-time support posts in London for Trade Union Secretariat (TUS) work. These posts are held by members of FCO staff who are elected to their respective roles (with the exception of the TUS registry post which is filled using the normal FCO appointment process). Based on FY2008-09 figures, the total notional value of the Trade Union Secretariat posts is £161,800.

These arrangements comply with the facilities agreement between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the trade unions which undertakes to:

"provide such resources as are reasonably necessary to enable Trade Union representatives to carry out their duties efficiently."

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of persons who walked out during the speech of the Iranian President at the UN Durban 2 anti-racism conference; and if he will make a statement. [272179]

Gillian Merron: The Government are aware that all EU delegations who attended the Durban review conference, and the representative of St. Kitts and Nevis, left the hall when the Iranian President made comments deemed to be offensive. A number of non-governmental organisation delegates also left the hall. Many delegates, including the UK's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, subsequently condemned the Iranian President's remarks.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a ministerial statement on the Durban review conference on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 41-42WS.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to have discussions with the President of South Africa on the political and human rights situation in Zimbabwe. [273147]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary currently has no planned meetings with President elect Zuma to discuss Zimbabwe, although Zimbabwe will certainly be among the issues which Ministers will wish to discuss with the incoming South African Administration over the coming weeks. South Africa remains key to the power-sharing agreement, brokered by the Southern African Development Community.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Gurkhas

12. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to reformulate its policy on settlement rights for Gurkhas. [275722]

Mr. Woolas: Following the debate on 29 April, the date for determining outstanding applications was brought forward to the end of May.

Based on this work, and recognising the strong feeling of the House, we will come forward with proposals for the next stage of our reform of the rules before the summer recess.

17. **Martin Salter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on the settlement rights of Gurkhas of the implementation of the points-based immigration system. [275727]

Mr. Woolas: The settlement rights of Gurkhas are entirely separate from the routes to enter the United Kingdom through the points-based system.

It will therefore have no effect on the implementation of the points-based immigration system.

DNA Database

13. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the compatibility of her proposal on retention of the DNA profiles of persons arrested but not convicted with the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. [275723]

Mr. Coaker: Our proposals, set out in the public consultation paper "Keeping the Right People on the DNA database" published on 7 May 2009, were drawn up against the background of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the S and Marper case. They aim to implement the judgment in a way which continues to protect the public while safeguarding the rights of the individual.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of crimes detected using DNA profiles held on the national DNA database in the last 12 months. [275729]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In 2007-08, 33,034 crimes were detected in which a DNA match was available or played a part in solving the crime. They included 83 homicides and 184 rapes. Figures for the 2008-09 financial year will be available shortly.

Identity Cards

14. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of progress on the introduction of identity cards. [275724]

23. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent assessment is of progress on the introduction of identity cards. [275733]

Mr. Woolas: Progress is well on track with identity cards for foreign nationals being introduced from November 2008 and identity cards being rolled out from autumn 2009 to British citizens resident in Manchester and also to airside workers at Manchester and London City airports.

Front-line Policing

15. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the proportion of police officers' time spent on front-line policing. [275725]

Mr. Coaker: We estimate that at the end of March 2008, 64.9 per cent. of police officer time was spent on front-line duties. This information is no longer collected by the Home Office as part of work to reduce bureaucracy.

Having delivered the funding for record numbers in the work force it is important that the police service make the best possible use of their work force's time. The effective deployment of officers and staff will enable them to be in the right place at the right time to deliver for the public when they most need the police's help.

Nazi War Crimes

16. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of UK residents who are suspected of having committed war crimes under the Nazi regime. [275726]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not collate figures on the total numbers in the UK who are suspected of these crimes.

Any allegations received concerning crimes under the Nazi regime are referred to the Metropolitan police for investigation.

Antisocial Behaviour: Swindon

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to tackle antisocial behaviour in Swindon. [275728]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have given practitioners the tools and powers they need to do their job effectively. When I visited Swindon recently I met the local partnership including police and the local authority to both support and challenge them to do more to make communities across Wiltshire safer.

Human Trafficking

20. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of progress in implementing the provisions of the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings. [275730]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I am pleased to say that the convention entered into force in the UK on 1 April this year. A Home Office-led multi agency task force has been established to monitor its implementation and will report later this year.

Public Confidence: Police

21. **Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of steps taken by police forces to increase public confidence in the police. [275731]

Mr. Coaker: Through the single confidence target, we expect the police, working with partners, to significantly increase public confidence that the issues that matter locally are being addressed. We will regularly monitor the performance of all forces and authorities against this target. HMIC will also consider the steps forces have taken to increase confidence.

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the planned programme of work is of the *(a)* Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) and *(b)* Technical Committee of the ACMD for the next 12 months. [274642]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

(a) The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), as an independent advisory body sets it own programme of work responding to both to requests for advice from the Home Office and other Government Departments and conducts work of its own choosing. However, the ACMD has indicated to the Home Department that in the coming 12 months they will be conducting work in the areas of 'legal highs' (including 'Spice'), cognitive enhancers, poly-drug use, treatment effectiveness and development of an early warning system to provide timely information to Ministers of emerging/new drugs and associated risks.

(b) The ACMD Technical Committee supports the work of the ACMD. Therefore, the Home Department understand that its primary work will be supporting the working groups to address the areas identified above. The work of the ACMD Technical Committee will also include responses to priority requests for advice from Government Departments and considering issues of their own volition.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* imposed and *(b)* breached in each police force area in Wales in each year since they were introduced. [270664]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The latest available information on the number of ASBOs issued and breached in Wales goes up to 31 December 2006. The available information is shown in the following tables. The first table shows the number of orders issued (by year and by area) and the second the number of orders breached in each year by area. It is important to note, however, that an ASBO can be issued in one Criminal Justice System (CJS) area and breached in another. Therefore the two tables are not directly comparable.

Table 1P: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by CJS area and year, April 1999 to December 2006

CJS area	Total issued	April 1999 to May 2000	June to December 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Dyfed Powys	43	—	—	—	—	12	8
Gwent	121	—	—	2	2	8	27
North Wales	235	—	1	—	7	15	42
South Wales	201	—	1	4	3	29	46
Total Wales	620	—	2	6	12	64	123

	2005					2006				
CJS area	January to March	April to June	July to September	October to December	Total	January to March	April to June	July to September	October to December	Total
Dyfed Powys	1	2	5	7	15	6	1	—	1	8
Gwent	7	14	7	5	33	15	9	10	15	49
North Wales	23	31	29	20	103	23	17	20	25	87
South Wales	15	15	10	16	64	19	16	10	9	54
Total Wales	46	62	50	48	215	63	43	40	50	198

Notes:
1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
3. Prepared by OCJR.

Table 7: ASBOs proven in court to have been breached for the first time within the periods shown[1] by CJS area[2] from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006

CJS area	2000-02[3]	2003	2004	2005 6	2006	Total
Dyfed Powys	0	5	5	6	10	26
Gwent	3	2	16	24	17	62
North Wales	3	7	12	50	51	123
South Wales	4	11	12	29	30	86
Total Wales	10	25	45	109	108	297

[1] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached.
[2] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of issue.
[3] From 1 June 2000.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Asylum

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to increase the speed with which asylum applications are handled. [275719]

Mr. Woolas: We are succeeding in our goal of handling applications faster than ever before.

60 per cent. of new cases were concluded within six months by the end of last year. We are committed to conclude 90 per cent. of new asylum cases within six months by 2011.

Carnage UK

Mrs. Betty Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the activities of Carnage UK. [274635]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has received no formal representations on the activities of Carnage UK.

Community Relations

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* the long-term aims and *(b)* the involvement of the Muslim community in the implementation of the revised Contest strategy; and if she will make a statement. [274423]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* Discussions were held with all Government Departments involved in countering terrorism. The long-term aim of the Contest strategy is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. All communities continue to play a role in helping to ensure the success of the strategy by rejecting violent extremism and challenging it. Strong and empowered communities are better equipped to effectively reject the ideology of violent extremism, isolate apologists for terrorism and provide support to vulnerable individuals and institutions.

Crime and Disorder Partnerships

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with police commanders on the effectiveness of local crime and disorder partnerships. [275710]

Mr. Coaker: Significant reductions in crime since 1997 have been delivered by local agencies working together in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships. Last week the Home Secretary met local partners from across the country, including the ACPO partnership lead, to discuss the role of effective partnerships in increasing public confidence.

Crime Prevention

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure under what budgetary headings was incurred by her Department in relation to the Crime Prevention Summit held on 4 February 2009; and what topics were discussed at the summit. [270564]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office incurred £328.76 from the programme budget in relation to the Real Help in Hard Times crime prevention summit on 4 February. The summit discussed how the Government and partners from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors can best work together to stay on the front foot to keep burglary down and reassure the public in more challenging economic circumstances. The actions identified at the summit were announced as the Securing Homes: Action Against Burglary initiative on 7 April.

Criminal Records: EU Nationals

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protocols her Department has established with each EU member state on monitoring the movement of known criminals. [273617]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There is no agreement between all member states of the European Union to monitor the movements of known criminals within the EU but the UK does contribute to the Europol Information System (EIS), a database where each member state can input details of any known criminal that it wishes to

share with other European States. If a person is wanted in any member state, that country can also issue a European arrest warrant which will ensure that if the person comes to the notice of the law enforcement authorities in any member state they can be arrested and returned to the country that issued the European arrest warrant. In addition, SOCA has been appointed to operate the UK Sirene Bureau which will have access to the European wide Schengen Information System. This contains details of all wanted persons throughout the European Union. It is planned that the Sirene Bureau will go live in 2010.

The Interpol Notice system also provides a monitoring facility. Green Notices are used to provide warnings and criminal intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences, and are likely to repeat those offences in other countries. A Green Notice is often issued by the UK for known travelling sex offenders. The Notice system is not limited to Europe and 187 states have access to it.

The United Kingdom has a Memorandum of Understanding with Ireland to ensure that information is shared between the two countries regarding sex offenders travelling between the two.

Cybercrime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further steps are required for ratification by the UK of the European Convention on Cybercrime; and when she expects ratification to be completed. [274071]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to ratifying the Council of Europe cybercrime convention. We are currently working through the formal UK process of ratification, during which we will lay the required explanatory memorandum before Parliament to obtain approval for ratification. If Parliament agrees to ratification, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will then commence the formal ratification process with the Council of Europe.

The Government hope to complete the parliamentary process by the summer recess and the Council of Europe process within two months of that.

DNA: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of profiles of children aged under 10 years-old have been removed from the national DNA database *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police force area; and if she will make a statement. [271104]

Mr. Alan Campbell: On 16 December 2008 the Home Secretary announced that all DNA profiles belonging to children aged under 10 would be removed from the National DNA Database (NDNAD). All such profiles loaded by England and Wales forces have been removed and the profiles of under 10s are no longer retained on the NDNAD.

The following table shows the number of profiles of children aged under 10 removed from the NDNAD since 16 December 2008, broken down by police force area.

Profiles of under 10s removed from the NDNAD since 16 December 2008, broken down by police force area

Force	*Total profiles deleted*
Avon and Somerset	3
British Transport	1
Cambridgeshire	2
Cheshire	1
City of London Police	1
Derbyshire	6
Devon and Cornwall	1
Dyfed-Powys	1
Essex	1
Greater Manchester Police	6
Gwent	4
Hampshire	4
Humberside	2
Kent	7
Lancashire	2
Metropolitan Police	11
North Wales	1
North Yorkshire	1
Northamptonshire	1
Northumbria	4
Nottinghamshire	2
South Wales Constabulary	1
South Yorkshire	11
Staffordshire Police	1
Suffolk	4
Surrey	2
Sussex	5
Warwickshire Police	1
West Mercia	2
West Midlands	1
West Yorkshire	8
Total profiles removed by England and Wales forces since 16 December 2008	98

Gamma Butyrolactone

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the volume of sales of liquid gamma butyrolactone for *(a)* illicit and *(b)* non-industrial use in each of the last three years; [272887]

(2) what the legal status of liquid gamma butyrolactone in the UK is; and if she will make a statement; [272888]

(3) what advice she received from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs on the classification of liquid gamma butyrolactone in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; and if she will make a statement. [272889]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* Gamma butyrolactone (GBL) is a precursor chemical. It is not a controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) provided advice on the classification of GBL in its 2008 report 'GBL & 1,4-BD: Assessment of Risk to the Individual and Communities in the UK'. This advice can be found at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/acmd/report-on-gbl1?view=Binary

This advice followed the ACMD's earlier 2007 report on 'Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault' in which the ACMD undertook to provide further advice on GBL This report can be found at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publicationsearch/acmd/drugfacilitatedsexualassault/ACMDDFSA.pdf?view=Binary

No advice on GBL was received from the ACMD in either 2006 or in 2009 to date.

The Government will shortly be publishing a three-month public consultation which brings forward options to control GBL and its like precursor chemical, 1,4-butanediol. Consultation will look to elicit a better understanding of the scale and scope of the availability for misuse of GBL and 1,4- butanediol in the UK.

Immigration

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to make a decision on the immigration case of Mrs Mohinder Kaur. [271298]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The UK Border Agency is currently seeking further information in order to be able to decide this case.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to reply to the letter of 22 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Folake Surat Odetunde; [253871]

(2) when she plans to reply to the letter of 22 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, on Folake Surat Odetunde; [271023]

(3) when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 22 December 2008, regarding Folake Surat Odetunde. [259873]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 11 May 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 23 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs N. Akhtar. [275150]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 6 April 2009.

Passports: Overseas Residence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost is to British nationals resident overseas of renewing their British passports. [270236]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is as follows:

Adult passport: £124

Child passport: £79.

Police: Bureaucracy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the current status is of the information reduction pilots in Surrey, Staffordshire, West Midlands and Leicestershire police forces; what assessment has been made of the time each pilot will take to achieve its targets; what analysis has been undertaken of the resultant savings in police officer time; and what plans she has for further roll-out of such schemes; [272986]

(2) whether the target date set for national roll out of the shortened crime recording and stop and account procedures has been met. [272987]

Jacqui Smith: The proportionate crime recording pilots are now complete, and the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) expects to complete their evaluation next month. The interim findings have highlighted the potential benefits, with Staffordshire police reporting a reduction of up to 80 per cent. of the time it takes to record 80 per cent. of incidents.

I announced on 22 December 2008 that, following the pilots, all forces in England and Wales should now be working to replicate these significant savings by streamlining their crime recording processes, and we are supporting forces in their efforts to do so.

On 1 January 2009 PACE Code A was amended in respect of recording Stop and Account, to remove the requirement to record data other than on ethnicity.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will bring forward proposals to require individual police forces to *(a)* accept, *(b)* respond to and *(c)* implement in full recommendations made by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC); and what (i) representations she has received from and (ii) discussions she has had with (A) police forces, (B) the IPCC and (C) members of the public on this issue; [273868]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to monitor the responses of police forces to the findings of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) which affect them; what recent discussions she has had with the IPCC on this issue; and if she will make a statement; [273882]

(3) if she will bring forward proposals to require the Independent Police Complaints Commission to inform her Department of the number of recommendations made by the Commission which have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* implemented by the police force to which they are addressed; and if she will make a statement; [274052]

(4) how long on average police authorities have taken to make a response to recommendations of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in each of the last three years; what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the IPCC and *(b)* police authorities on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [273883]

Mr. Coaker: The information sought is not currently collected or held by the Home Office or the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

The Public Accounts Committee's 15th report on the Independent Police Complaints Commission published on 31 March 2009, recommended that the Home Office should clarify who is responsible for monitoring the implementation of IPCC recommendations. We are working with the IPCC to take the recommendation forward.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what practical steps are being taken to align the performance targets of police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service; and what timetable has been set for such changes. [273032]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office no longer sets top down numerical targets for the police (with the exception of a single target to raise public confidence) and local target setting is therefore a matter for local criminal justice boards (LCJBs). The Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), along with other partners, are members of LCJBs which co-ordinate criminal justice planning and activity at the local level. LCJBs are required to agree local targets to improve their efficiency and effectiveness in bringing crime, in particular the most serious acquisitive, sexual and violent offences to justice.

Powers of Entry

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Lord West's review of powers of entry will extend to reviewing the existing powers of entry of bailiffs. [271281]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The review covers powers of entry provided for by statute and aims to establish a framework of powers to ensure that the right balance is achieved between the statutory investigative and enforcement functions of relevant organisations and safeguards and protections for the public. Existing powers of entry and associated provisions and safeguards can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/powers-of-entry-review/

The review is expected to report in autumn 2009.

Details on the role of bailiffs can be found at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/ManagingDebt/DebtsAndArrears/DG_10034289

Racially Aggravated Offences: Young People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many racist incidents involving persons under the age of 18 years were reported to the police in each of the last five years; [273575]

(2) how many reports police forces received of racist incidents in schools in each of the last five years. [273576]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Ministry of Justice collect and publish statistics of racist incidents by police force area. However, no information is available on the age of either the victim or the alleged offender or on the location of the incident.

Retail Trade: Crime

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made towards the introduction of a specific measurement of commercial *(a)* robbery and *(b)* burglary. [274956]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) has been conducted by the Home Office on two occasions—once in 1994 and again in 2002. The Home Office have recently commissioned a study to consider and make recommendations about the coverage and methodology of a further survey of crime against commercial victims. This will report later in the year and inform decisions about the scope of another survey.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency are based overseas. [274004]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As of 30 April 2009, there were 140 staff employed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency based overseas.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure that detention facilities run by international military forces in Afghanistan meet the standards required under international law in the treatment of women and children. [275861]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence can only answer this question in respect of UK run facilities.

The UK takes its human rights obligations very seriously and has policy and procedures in place regarding the standards within military detention facilities. All our facilities are regularly inspected to ensure that they meet our obligations under international law. The ICRC and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission have access to all the UK's operational detention facilities in Afghanistan.

When any females or juveniles are detained they are separated from male prisoners and/or adult prisoners, unless they are housed with family members. All persons, especially those under 18 are only detained if absolutely essential and in Afghanistan, detainees are held for a maximum of 96 hours before being released or transferred to the Afghan authorities.

Armed Forces: Aviation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many charter flights to theatres of operation have taken place in each year since 2003, broken down by *(a)* location, *(b)* type of aircraft and *(c)* reason for flight. [275054]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Charter flights to theatres of operation in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003 are:

Op Telic IRAQ

	Type of Aircraft used	*Flights*
2003	AN124,A330, B737, B747, B757, B767, DC10, DC8, IL76, L10-11, MD11	518
2004	AN124,A330,B747, B757, DC8	89
2005	AN124, A330, B747, DC8	25
2006	A300, AN124, B747, B767, DC10, IL76	212
2007	A300, A310, A330, AN124, B747, B767, DC10, IL76, B737, MD11	786
2008	A300, DC8, AN124, B747, B767, DC10, IL76	737
2009[1]	A300, A310, AN124, B757, B767, DC8	186

[1] 1 January to 30 April

Op Herrick Afghanistan

	Type of Aircraft used	*Flights*
2003	[1]—	[1]—
2004	[1]—	[1]—
2005	[1]—	[1]—
2006	A300, AN124, B737, B757, DC8, IL76	113
2007	B737,A300,A310,A320, AN124, B757, B767, DC10, IL76	329
2008[2]	A300,A319,A321,A330, AN124, B737, B747, B757, B767, DC10,DC8,IL76	516
	A300, A321, A330, AN124, B737, B747, B757, B767, DC8, IL76	407

[1] No charter recorded for Op Herrick
[2] 1 January to 30 April

All flights are for the carriage of either passengers or freight or a combination of both.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on charter flights to each destination in each theatre of operation in each year since 2003. [275055]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The spend on charter flights to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003 is:

£

Theatre of operation	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Iraq	41,350	19,569	17,983	40,186	67,079	53,551
Afghanistan	971	21,555	1,998	29,113	62,594	109,921

Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of service of personnel opting for voluntary outflow from the armed forces was in the latest period for which figures are available. [275181]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the length of service of armed forces personnel from 2006-07 onwards is currently unavailable since the introduction of the joint personnel administration system.

The following table provides the average length of service (in years) of personnel who voluntary outflowed from the trained UK Regular Forces in the financial year 2005-06.

Years

Service	*Officers*	*Other ranks*
All Services	15.0	9.4
Navy	16.1	10.1
Army	13.2	7.9
RAF	18.5	12.6

UK Regular Forces excludes Gurkhas, full-time reserve personnel and mobilised reservists.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of servicemen and women leaving the armed forces in each of the last seven years had combat experience. [275182]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on servicemen and women leaving the armed forces who had combat experience is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of force elements have reported *(a)* no serious weaknesses, *(b)* no critical weaknesses and *(c)* no serious or critical weaknesses against required peacetime readiness levels in each of the last four quarters; [275014]

(2) what percentage of force elements have reported no serious or critical weaknesses against the ability to deploy, sustain and recover force elements at the most demanding level of the Defence Planning Assumptions for contingent operations in each of the last four quarters; [275015]

(3) what percentage of force elements have reported *(a)* no serious weaknesses, *(b)* no critical weaknesses and *(c)* no serious or critical weaknesses against the ability to move from peacetime readiness to immediate readiness for deployment on operations in each of the last four quarters. [275016]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have previously sought to measure our ability to bring force elements from their peacetime readiness levels up to the level required to deploy on potential contingent operations at the most demanding scale of effort, known as force generation, and to deploy them on such operations, sustain them there and recover them to their home base thereafter. This system has been predicated on the assumption that, for the most part, the armed forces will be operating below the concurrency level envisaged in defence planning assumptions and that they should therefore be working to maintain their capacity to deploy on potential contingent operations. The longer we have been operating above that concurrency level, the more theoretical this has become. By definition we have consistently, over several years, been successfully generating, deploying, sustaining

and recovering force elements above the long term concurrency levels assumed in our long term planning. The metrics we have been using to measure and report our hypothetical capability have consequently provided little or no meaningful management information. We are therefore working to develop a more useful way of measuring and reporting performance in this area for the time when the operational tempo has reduced and the forces structure is recuperated to the point where it is appropriate once more to seek to measure our contingent as opposed to our current capability.

Statistical reporting against the graduated readiness profiles is published in the MOD public service agreement reports. The most recent report, setting out the Q3 2008-09 position, was published on the MOD website on 5 May 2009 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/ModPublicServiceAgreementQuarterReportsapril2008ToMarch2011.htm

The critical and serious weakness scores, as published, for each of the last four quarters are provided in the following table.

	No serious weakness	*No critical weakness*	*Percentage No serious or critical weakness*
Q4 2007-08	55	92	49
Q1 2008-09	48	92	39
Q2 2008-09	49	92	42
Q3 2008-09	50	93	43

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between experience of combat and evidence of psychological wounding; [275184]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between levels of psychological wounding of service personnel and the number of contacts with the enemy. [275185]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department fully supports the need for high quality research which examines the psychological health of personnel engaged on operational duties. The King's Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR) and Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health website

www.kcl.ac.uk/kcmhr

contains links to a wide range of individual research papers. The 2006 KCMHR 10-year report provides a particularly useful summary of research during the first 10 years since its foundation in 1996. These studies examine the psychological health of Armed Forces personnel and veterans including intensity of operations, but there is no specific study of psychological health correlated with number of contacts.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will introduce psychometric screening as part of the service discharge medical examinations for all military personnel. [276063]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A discharge medical assessment is undertaken 90 days prior to discharge. This detailed examination is undertaken by a doctor and the results are recorded on the individual's F-Med-1 form. This form contains a specific assessment of the mental capacity and emotional stability of the individual. A reassessment is carried out seven days prior to discharge to confirm the record or reflect any further changes.

A summary of each individual's medical history while in the armed forces, including the results of the discharge medical, is recorded on an F-Med-133 form which is given to the individual to pass on to their civilian GP. The F-Med-133 also contains information on how the GP can gain access to the individual's complete service medical records if required.

Armed Forces: Pay

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what levels of Operational Allowance are payable to troops in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Iraq and *(c)* each other country in which Operational Allowance is payable. [275455]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The operational allowance is paid at the same rate for all qualifying locations. The allowance amounts to £2,380 for a six month operational tour, equating to £13.08 per day. Operational allowance is paid at a flat rate, recognising that all service personnel serving in the most challenging and dangerous operational circumstances are facing a broadly similar risk. The operational allowance is paid to all service personnel (regular, mobilised reserves and those on full-time reserve service) who are serving in specified operational locations, predominantly Afghanistan, Iraq and Iraqi territorial waters.

Entitlement is also extended to those undertaking flying sorties over or into Iraq and Afghanistan.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of upgrades to the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle in the last 12 months. [276177]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Panther Command and Liaison vehicle has been modified under an urgent operational requirement to a theatre entry standard appropriate for deployment to operations in Afghanistan, at a cost of approximately £20 million.

Ascension Island

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated value is of each of his Department's properties on Ascension Island; and when the last valuation was carried out. [276174]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has some 200 individual property assets on Ascension Island recorded on its asset registers ranging from stores to accommodation blocks. Valuations are carried out on a rolling five-year basis based on the depreciated replacement cost of the assets. The last formal valuation of the assets was carried out in 2005-06 and the next will take place during 2010-11.

The assets on Ascension Island valued at more than £1 million in 2005-06 were disclosed as part of the 2007 National Asset Register which is available on the HM Treasury website, with a total value at that time of £25.7 million.

Clyde Submarine Base

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to change to Faslane the homeport of *(a)* HMS Trenchant, *(b)* HMS Talent and *(c)* HMS Triumph, and when each vessel will have its mid-commission major maintenance period. [275219]

Mr. Quentin Davies: HMS Trenchant, HMS Talent and HMS Triumph will transfer progressively to HM Naval Base Clyde between 2014 and 2017 upon completion of their mid commission major maintenance periods.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275205]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information on interest paid to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 is published in the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts. Payments made in the last three years are provided in the following table:

	£
2005-06	14,709
2006-07	8,603
2007-08	9,956

The information contained in the table does not include those interest payments made by the four MOD Trading Funds. This information is summarised as follows.

In 2007-08 Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) made interest payments totalling £15,783. No interest payments have been recorded for 2005-06 or 2006-07.

The UK Hydrographic Office does not separately record details of interest paid to suppliers and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Meteorological Office and Defence Support Group have no record of any payments being made to suppliers in the last three years in respect of interest arising under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275984]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department keeps all of its business under regular review. As a result, a wide range of reviews are in hand at any given time. Information on these is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many white fleet contract cars his Department owns; [275228]

(2) how many civilian vehicles owned by his Department are based at each of its estates. [275229]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence does not own any White Fleet contract cars. We do, however, have two lease agreements in place for the provision of the majority of non-operational cars (White Fleet Vehicles). As at 12 May 2009 there were 8,376 cars leased under the UK and British Forces Germany White Fleet contracts.

Under the UK White Fleet contract, the number of vehicles (including vans, trailers, minibuses, motorbikes and coaches) based at each of the estates in England, Scotland and Wales is currently 15,228. The breakdown of this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

European Fighter Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the through-life running cost per aircraft of the Tranche 3 Eurofighter in each year of operation. [275270]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This matter is currently the subject of negotiations with our partner nations and industry.

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider the merits of conducting a veterans' population study analysis similar to that undertaken by the US administration following the Vietnam War. [276062]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has commissioned a number of studies into veterans' issues and we will continue to do so.

Kenya: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what seized property has been transferred to the Kenyan authorities by the EU-led naval force under the Provisions of Transfer of Suspected Pirates and Seized Property published in the Official Journal of the European Union of 25 March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [273355]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Operation Atalanta is an EU led operation and the operational detail requested is held by the EU Operation Commander for Atalanta, who reports to EU member states sitting in the Political and Security Committee in Brussels.

The EU-led naval force (EUNAVFOR), Operation Atalanta, where practicable, has handed over seized property such as skiffs (small boats) and other pirate related paraphernalia such as ladders, buoys and weapons. In some cases the skiffs and weaponry have been destroyed by the detaining ship for navigational and safety of life reasons. All of the incidents in which suspected pirates have been detained by EUNAVFOR are currently being prosecuted by the Kenyan authorities and therefore a more specific answer is not possible without jeopardising the court proceedings.

Land Mines

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured as a result of landmine detonation in each theatre in each of the last 12 months. [275231]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Navy

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 16-18WS, on maritime change programme, when he expects *(a)* the Strategic Environmental Assessment and *(b)* the Submarine Dismantling Project to be completed. [274734]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The main element of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) will be completed when the formal public consultation has ended and the MOD has published its response to the consultation findings. This is currently scheduled for spring 2010.

In accordance with statutory guidance, however, the SEA will not have a formal completion date, as monitoring of significant environmental effects will be ongoing throughout the life of the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP).

The SDP is planned to run until circa 2060 when the intermediate level waste from all 27 submarines included in the project has been sent to the proposed National Geological Disposal Facility.

Nimrod Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Nimrod fuel defects have been reported in each year since 2003. [275010]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have interpreted 'fuel defects' to mean fuel leaks. The number of fuel leaks reported on the RAF Nimrod fleet since 2006 are stated in the following table.

Information on the number of fuel leaks prior to 2006 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of fuel leaks
2006	170
2007	[1]278
2008	146
2009	[2]20

Notes:
1. Includes one fuel leak reported since the figure given in the written answer on 22 July 2008,*Official Report*, columns 1060-1061W.
[2] Up until 31 March, the last full month for which validated data are available.
[3] A fuel leak is defined as any leakage of fuel from aircraft couplings, pipes or fuel tanks.
[4] These figures do not include fuel leaks which are caused by scheduled maintenance activity, as we disturb the fuel system. In these cases, the leak is both caused and rectified while on the ground.

Pakistan: Military Aid

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much aid was given to Pakistan for military purposes between 1997 and 2008. [273848]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD provides military advice and assistance to Pakistan as part of normal security co-operation, as it does with many countries worldwide.

Rosyth Dockyard

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effect on Rosyth Dockyard of the implementation of the Maritime Change Programme. [275488]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 May 2009]*: Rosyth dockyard, which is owned and operated by Babcock, currently has a strong order book of MOD work: it is a key location for surface ship upkeep work through the Surface Ship Support Programme and is at the heart of the build programme for the two new Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers.

As work on the new aircraft carrier programme at Rosyth increases, it is envisaged that deep maintenance surface ship work will be predominately undertaken at Devonport dockyard (which is also owned by Babcock). This is to ensure best use of industry wide resources.

Somalia: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps is he taking to protect UK-registered vessels in the Gulf of Aden from pirate attacks. [272958]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been much collaboration and co-operation between the UK shipping industry, the military and from across Government.

The UK military is working alongside the shipping industry to provide safe passage of traffic in the Gulf of Aden. International naval forces are expending significant effort on counter-piracy operations, and are playing a role in protecting vulnerable shipping. For instance, the UK-commanded EU naval operation is utilising an internationally recognised transit corridor through the Gulf of Aden. All merchant shipping, including UK-registered vessels, are encouraged to use this route.

Best practice guidelines have been agreed with industry bodies on speed, self-protection, and registration with the Maritime Security Centre (Horn of Africa) website.

Those ships registered with the website and following best practice have been considerably more successful in evading pirate attacks.

Moreover, the UK Maritime Trade Office acts as the interface between merchant shipping and the military, and has become the focal point for UK-registered vessels seeking advice and guidance.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions has he had with the US administration on the activities of pirates off the coast of Somalia. [272959]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have worked closely with the US in the Gulf region for many years, and continue to do so to tackle piracy. The Combined Maritime Force, which conducts maritime security operations, including counter-piracy and counter-terrorism, is commanded by a US Admiral with a UK Royal Navy deputy.

In response to the recent increase in pirate activity, we have engaged with the US along military and diplomatic channels in order to develop a comprehensive approach, as part of an international response.

We also work closely with the US and other parties through the international Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). As part of this, the UK chaired a separate working group on 7-8 May 2009 to continue discussions on military co-ordination and capability building in the region. The meeting was attended by other members of the CGPCS as well as industry representatives.

TREASURY

Adjudicator's Office

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints made to the Adjudicator's Office were outstanding on 22 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [271783]

Mr. Timms: On 27 April 2009 there were 2,029 complaints yet to be settled.

Banks: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the administration costs of the Asset Protection Scheme in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [266087]

Ian Pearson: Figures for the Treasury's spending in 2008-09 will be available in the Department's resource accounts 2008-09 after the conclusion of the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit.

The cost of establishing the asset protection scheme will be shared between the banks participating in the scheme.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision he has made for the repayment of sums paid to support UK banks in each of the next six years. [271770]

Ian Pearson: Under the recapitalisation scheme announced on 8 October 2008, the Government have to date invested a total of £37 billion in Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds) and the Royal Bank of Scotland Group (RBS). There will be further investment alongside their participation in the Asset Protection Scheme.

The Government's shareholdings in RBS and Lloyds are managed on a commercial basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability, and consistent with HM Treasury's stated aim that it should not be a permanent investor in UK financial institutions.

Banks: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to implement the provisions in UN Security Council Resolution 1747 of 2007 on the prevention of new grants, financial assistance and concessional loans to the Government of Iran, other than for humanitarian and developmental purposes. [270988]

David Miliband: In line with paragraph seven of UN Security Council Resolution 1747, adopted on 24 March 2007, the Government make available no new grants, financial assistance or concessional loans to the Government of Iran.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes he plans to make to the arrangements for *(a)* registration, *(b)* supervision and *(c)* accountability of credit rating agencies in light of the Turner Report on the regulatory response to the global banking crisis. [267591]

Ian Pearson: The Government support registration and supervision of credit rating agencies. The European Commission proposed a regulation of credit rating agencies in November 2008. Following negotiation the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament both adopted the text of the regulation in April 2009, as envisaged by the Turner Review. The regulation is expected to enter into force later this calendar year.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to amend the regulatory regime applying to the banking sector following the economic downturn. [275555]

Angela Eagle: As stated in Budget 2009: Building Britain's future, the Government will issue a paper on renewing financial markets for the long term before the summer recess. This will include proposals to strengthen financial services regulation, and build on the work of the Turner Review as well as action taken at an international level.

Coinage

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pound sterling coins he estimates are in circulation in the United Kingdom. [275608]

Ian Pearson: The information requested can be found on the Royal Mint's website at:

http://www.royalmint.com/Corporate/facts/circulation.aspx

Departmental ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many and what proportion of computers in his Department malware was detected in 2008. [275395]

Angela Eagle: Malware was detected, and safely removed from, four of the Treasury's total of approximately 1,600 computers during 2008.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243745]

Angela Eagle: For information on departmental Christmas parties, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1669W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Treasury staff have organised a number of grass roots events in the period concerned. Those are self-funding and details of costs are not available.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many items of correspondence his Department sent by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of delivery services other than Royal Mail. [264524]

Angela Eagle: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer that I gave him on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 662-63W. The table provides the figures for subsequent years.

	Number of items sent by Royal Mail	*Number of items sent by other commercial delivery services*
2007[1]	86,391	186
2008	54,371	470

[1] From this year, HM Treasury combined its postal services with the Office of Government Commerce, which moved into the Treasury building in September 2007.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260645]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available. HM Treasury only holds records centrally of core training provision, which does not include this type of training. Details of other training provided or funded locally could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Budget

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to have discussions with his EU partners on reassessing the UK's contributions to the EU budget. [274674]

Ian Pearson: No timetable has yet been set for the commencement of discussions on the next financial perspective.

The arrangements by which member states finance the EC Budget are set out in the European Communities' Own Resources Decision. A new Own Resources Decision was agreed in June 2007 and has since been ratified by all member states in accordance with their own constitutional requirements. In the UK, ratification was by means of a European Communities (Finance) Bill which was taken through both Houses between 7 November 2007 and 18 February 2008 receiving Royal Assent on 19 February 2008.

Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's analysis of the *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2000, *(c)* 1995 and *(d)* 1990 non-domestic rating lists rateable values by (i) detailed property type by country, (ii) property type and (iii) region and property type; [271835]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's analysis of the distribution of changes in rateable value by *(a)* property type and *(b)* region between the (i) 2005 and 2000, (ii) 2000 and 1995 and (iii) 1995 and 1990 non-domestic rating lists; [271836]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) *(a)* primary description code and *(b)* special category code analysis by (i) economic region, (ii) billing authority and (iii) VOA group office of the movements in rateable value between the (A) 2000 and 2005, (B) 1995 and 2000 and (C) 1990 and 1995 rating lists. [276110]

Mr. Timms: The analysis and distribution of changes by ratable value by property type for 2005 and 2000 are available on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/business_rates/DraftListStats/index.htm.

The 1995 and 1990 information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which HM Revenue and Customs offices are planned to close under the Workforce Change programme; [273237]

(2) which HM Revenue and Customs offices originally scheduled for closure under the Workforce Change programme are now planned to stay open; and for what reasons in each case. [273330]

Mr. Timms: The aim of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Workforce Change regional review programme was to match its accommodation with its future business needs. The following table provides a list of the HMRC

offices announced for closure under the regional review programme. Decisions made to close these offices remain unchanged.

HMRC has however looked again at the timing of the closures of a number of these offices in the light of budgetary constraints, and has decided that the vacation of some offices will not now take place in 2009-10 as originally planned. This does not affect the strategic decision to close these buildings, which HMRC aims to complete in 2010-11.

Where an office housing an inquiry centre closes, the inquiry centre services will be retained at or near the current location so face to face services to HMRC's customers will not be affected.

HMRC offices announced for closure under HMRC's Workforce Change Regional Review process

Town	*Building*
Aberystwyth	Crown Buildings
Accrington	Castle House
Alfreton	Horsefair House
Alnwick	Bondgate Hall
Altrincham	Roberts House
Andover	London Street
Ashford	Wellesley Road
Ashton-under-Lyne	Oakglade House
Aylesbury	Kingfisher House
Ayr	Russell House
Ballymena	Kilpatrick House
Banbridge	Bridgwater House
Banbury	Crown Building
Bangor	Ty Glyn
Barrow in Furness	Furness House
Basildon	Kelting House
Basildon	Regent House
Bath	Royal Mead
Bedford	Portman House
Belfast	Olivetree House
Belfast	Windsor House
Bideford	North Bank House
Birkenhead	Birchen House
Bishop Auckland	Vinovium House
Blackpool	Mexford House
Boston	Chantry House
Brecon	Government Buildings
Bridgend	Tremains Road
Bridgwater	Westgate House
Bridlington	Crown Building
Brierley Hill	Capstan House
Bristol	The Pithay
Bristol	Woodlands Court
Buckie	Moray House
Burnley	Towneley House
Burton upon Trent	Crown House
Bury	Minden House
Bury St. Edmunds	Triton House
Cannock	Rogers House
Cardiff	Portcullis House
Carmarthen	Ty Myrddin
Cheadle	Boundary House
Cheltenham	Inland Revenue House
Chester	Eden House
Chester	Norroy House
Chesterfield	Dents Chambers

HMRC offices announced for closure under HMRC's Workforce Change Regional Review process

Town	*Building*
Chichester	6, Southgate
Chippenham	Kilvert House
Chorley	Lingmell House
Clacton-on-Sea	Harlech House
Coatbridge	Muiryhall Street
Colchester	Northgate House
Coleraine	Mill House
Cowes	Watchhouse
Crewe	Crewe House
Darlington	Regent House
Derby	St. James House
Dewsbury	Empire House
Doncaster	St. Peters House
Doncaster	Weston House
Dorchester	Vespasian House
Dumbarton	Meadowbank Street
Dumfries	Brooms Road
Dunfermline	Merchiston House
Dunoon	Auchencraig
Durham	Wycliffe House
East Dereham	Revenue Building
Edinburgh	Argyle House
Edinburgh	Clarendon House
Edinburgh	Saughton House
Edinburgh	Spitfire House
Edinburgh	York Place
Elgin	Phoenix House
Enniskillen	Custom House
Evesham	Lower Leys
Falkirk	Grahame House
Farnham	Woolmead House
Frome	Edwin Sims House
Gainsborough	Crown House
Galashiels	New Reiver House
Glasgow	Blythswood House
Grangemouth	Custom House
Grantham	Crown House
Gravesend	Stephenson House
Grays	Crown Building
Great Yarmouth	Havenbridge House
Greenock	Custom House
Greenock	Dalrymple Street
Grimsby	Heritage House
Halifax	Dean Clough Mill
Halifax	Southgate House
Hamilton	Barrack Street
Harlow	Beaufort House
Harlow	Terminus House
Hastings	Ashdown House
Hatfield	Gracemead House
Haverfordwest	Government Buildings
Hawick	Crown Building
Haywards Heath	Oaklands
Hemel Hempstead	Lord Alexander House
Hereford	Broadway House
Hertford	Sovereign House
Hexham	St. Andrews House
High Wycombe	Thame House
Horsham	Exchange House
Horsham	Tower Court

HMRC offices announced for closure under HMRC's Workforce Change Regional Review process

Town	Building
Hove	Martello House
Huddersfield	Crown House
Huntingdon	Chequers Court
Inverness	Longman House
Keighley	Worth House
Kendal	Eskdale House
Kendal	Kentmere House
Kettering	Cytringan House
Kettering	Montagu Court
King's Lynn	Custom House
Lancaster	Charter House
Launceston	Madford House
Leeds	Century House
Leeds	Jefferson House
Leeds	Pennine House
Leek	Britannia Chambers
Leicester	Attenborough House
Leicester	Enkalon House
Leigh	Boardman House
Lewes	Medwyn House
Lincoln	Ceres House
Liverpool	Graeme House
Liverpool	Norwich House
Liverpool	Regian House
Llanelli	Crown Building
London (Central)	Belgrave Road
London (Central)	Haymarket House
London (Central)	New Kings Beam House
London (Central)	Thomas Paine House
London (Central)	Towergate
London (Central)	Towergate Garage
London (Outer)	3 Brook Street, Kingston upon Thames
London (Outer)	Church Hill, Walthamstow
London (Outer)	Collingwood Business Centre, Tufnell Park
London (Outer)	Gateway House, Finchley
London (Outer)	Helena House, Sutton
London (Outer)	Lyndhurst House, Mill Hill
London (Outer)	Majestic House, Staines
London (Outer)	Northside House, Bromley
London (Outer)	Station House, Colindale
London (Outer)	Valiant House, Wembley
Louth	Revenue Buildings
Ludlow	Riddings Road
Luton	Jansel House
Macclesfield	Craven House
Maidenhead	Bell Tower House
Maidstone	Concorde House
Manchester	Royal Exchange Building
Mansfield	Chaucer House
Margate	Capital House
Melton Mowbray	Crown House
Middlesbrough	Fountain Court
Morpeth	Back Riggs
Motherwell	Civic Square
Newark	Millgate
Newbury	Elizabeth House
Newcastle upon Tyne	Aidan House
Newcastle upon Tyne	Cale Cross House
Newcastle upon Tyne	Eagle Star House

HMRC offices announced for closure under HMRC's Workforce Change Regional Review process

Town	Building
Newcastle upon Tyne	North Star House
Newcastle upon Tyne	Warwick House
Newport	Crown Building
Newport IOW	88-91 St. James Street
Newport IOW	Apex
Newry	Downshire House
Newton Abbot	Sherborne House
Northampton	Beaumont House
Northwich	Dane House
Norwich	Roseberry Court
Nottingham	Bowman House
Nottingham	Huntingdon Court
Nuneaton	Powell House
Oban	Mathieson House
Oldham	Phoenix House
Oswestry	Plas Ffynon
Oxford	Sterling House
Paisley	Gilmour House
Pembroke	Custom House
Penrith	Voreda House
Penzance	Penlowarth
Perth	Water Vennel
Peterborough	Ashurst House
Peterborough	Hereward House
Peterborough	Stuart House
Peterhead	Keith House
Plymouth	Custom House
Plymouth	Westpoint
Pontefract	Micklegate House
Pontypool	Ty'r Felin
Pontypridd	Taff Vale House
Preston	Cop Lane
Prestwick	Liberator House
Reading	Eaton Court
Reading	Eldon Court
Redditch	Threadneedle House
Retford	Kings Park House
Rhyl	Llys Anwyl
Ripon	Athelstan Court
Rochdale	Newgate House
Rothesay	King Street
Rugby	Bennfield House
Salford	Anchorage 2
Salisbury	Alexandra House
Scarborough	Albion House
Scunthorpe	Station House
Shipley	Crown House
Shipley	Hockney House
Shrewsbury	New Mayfield House
Skipton	Cavendish House
Southampton	8 Ogle Road
Southampton	Portcullis House
Southampton	Queen's Keep
Southend	Dencora Court
Southend	Portcullis House
Southport	Dukes House
Spalding	Government Buildings
Spalding	Holland House
St. Albans	Beauver House
St. Annes	Petros House

HMRC offices announced for closure under HMRC's Workforce Change Regional Review process

Town	*Building*
Stafford	Greyfriars House
Stirling	Spittal Street
Stockport	Wellesley House
Stockton	Dunedin House
Stratford upon Avon	Crown Building
Sudbury	Newton Road
Sunderland	Gilbridge House
Sunderland	Shackleton House
Swansea	Custom House
Swindon	Spring Gardens
Taunton	Riverside Chambers
Tonbridge	Douglas House
Torquay	Tor Hill House
Truro	Pydar House
Tunbridge Wells	Longford House
Tunbridge Wells	Union House
Wakefield	Crown House
Washington	Cheviot House
Washington	Weardale House
Wellingborough	Christchurch House
Wells	Priory Road
Welshpool	Dolanog House
Weston Super Mare	Parkside
Whitehaven	Blencathra House
Wick	Government Buildings
Widnes	Kingsway House
Wigan	Bridgeman House
Winchester	Cromwell House
Witham	Iceni House
Worthing	Teville Gate House
Yeovil	Maltravers House
York	Swinson House

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs offices are planned for closure in the next 12 months. [275485]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs plans to vacate 58 properties during 2009-10, and of these 47 are offices. It will reduce the size of a further 70 offices by relinquishing space that is no longer needed.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money the Government has provided to the Royal Bank of Scotland in the last 12 months. [267761]

Ian Pearson: Following the conversion of the Treasury's £5 billion preference shares to ordinary shares, announced on 19 January 2009 and completed on 14 April 2009, the Government have now invested £20.3 billion in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) (including additional amounts to cover the accrued dividend on the repurchased preference shares, and the underwriting fee on the new ordinary shares).

With RBS' participation in the asset protection scheme, the Government will make a further investment of £19.5 billion, and will make available a further £6 billion at RBS's option.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to *(a)* make illegal the design and promotion of schemes intended solely or mainly as a vehicle for tax avoidance and *(b)* establish penalties for all those involved in the design and promotion of such schemes. [275881]

Mr. Timms: Tax avoidance has the potential to damage the public finances and the provision of public services in the UK. For this reason, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) monitors tax avoidance closely at all times.

Since 1997, the Government have been taking steps to tackle avoidance, by reforming the tax system, closing loopholes and introducing the disclosure regime. Anti-avoidance measures brought in as a result of the disclosure rules have closed over £11 billion in avoidance opportunities. The disclosure regime ensures that should further avoidance schemes emerge, the Government can quickly take action to protect tax revenues.

The Government agree that more action is still needed to mitigate the effects of tax avoidance. Budget 2009 sets out measures to close down avoidance schemes, including principles-based legislation on financial product avoidance, the successful introduction of which could facilitate this approach being applied to other areas, and work to further extend and improve the disclosure regime. These measures raise over £1 billion during the period 2009-10 to 2011-12, and protect a further £3 billion per year of tax receipts by 2010-11. The Government keep the need for further measures under review.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals for a general anti-tax avoidance provision on the Australian equitable model or a similar model. [275882]

Mr. Timms: The Government consulted extensively on the possibility of a general anti-avoidance rule in 1998. Based on the outcome of that consultation, we made the decision not to introduce such a rule at that time, although the situation would be kept under review. That position is unchanged.

Tax Collection

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs has accepted money from taxpayers other than in response to a demand for payment of tax in the last 12 months. [276101]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) systems do not separately identify those payments received before and after formal demands have been issued.

Much of the operation of the tax system depends on payments being made to HMRC other than in response to a demand for payment. This would include, for example, payments where the taxpayer makes a self-assessment, payments that employers make throughout the year of the amounts due under PAYE, payments on account or in advance of future liabilities and payments in respect of VAT due from traders.

Tax Havens

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the tax information exchange agreements sought by the G20 to be in operation. [274411]

Mr. Timms: In keeping with the G20 London summit communiqué, we expect swift implementation of the international standard of exchange of information by all countries. The G20 summit stated its readiness to apply sanctions against countries that fail to implement the international standard. G20 Leaders and Finance Ministers will meet again this year to review progress on commitments.

Taxation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the ruling on the capping of input tax claims by HM Revenue and Customs, what refund payments have now been made to each local authority; and what the total estimated Exchequer liability is for such payments. [275758]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not disclose the details of individual taxpayers, so I am unable to provide details of refunds paid to each local authority in light of legal rulings on the capping of input tax. No specific estimate of the total liability to the Exchequer for such payments to local authorities is available.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model was last calibrated. [275757]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 828W.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* paid Rightmove.co.uk in 2008-09 and *(b)* plans to pay to that company in 2009-10. [275767]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 723-24W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 262W, on the Valuation Office: Rightmove, for what reasons the contract with Rightmove.co.uk and HM Revenue and Customs, on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency, was extended; and whether the contract will be extended into 2010. [275851]

Mr. Timms: The contract between HM Revenue and Customs and Rightmove was extended because it provides good value for money by reducing the need for Valuation Office Agency (VOA) staff to visit properties in order to undertake their functions. It also allows the VOA to source the information it needs at minimal inconvenience to taxpayers. There is no provision in the contract for extension into 2010.

VAT: Bingo

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual revenue which would be forgone by the Exchequer from the removal of value added tax on mainstage bingo. [258691]

Mr. Timms: It is estimated that the removal of value added tax on mainstage bingo would forego around £20 million in revenue in 2009-10. This includes the impact of value added tax removal on excise duty revenues from bingo and other gambling sectors.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist developing countries tackle the adverse effects of climate change. [274715]

Mr. Thomas: Information on the Department for International Development's (DFID) climate change policy and the steps being taken are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/How-we-fight-Poverty/Climate-and-Environment/Climate-Change/What-DFID-is-doing/

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on measures to tackle HIV/AIDS in the developing world; and if he will make a statement. [275001]

Mr. Thomas: In June 2008 the UK Government launched "Achieving Universal Access"—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world. This is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID web-site:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Pakistan: Armed Conflict

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the humanitarian situation in the Swat Valley region of Pakistan following the recent conflict between Pakistani security forces and the Taliban; and what assistance the Government plan to provide to displaced civilians in that conflict zone. [275536]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government are deeply concerned by the growing humanitarian crisis in the Swat Valley and neighbouring districts. We are in close discussion with the Government of Pakistan, humanitarian agencies and other donors to monitor the situation. The number of registered people displaced by the conflict

now stands at over 1 million and this figure is sill growing. The United Nations (UN) is currently revising its appeal to meet the needs of up to 1.5 million people. The Department for International Development (DFID) has so far provided £12 million for humanitarian assistance to help those who have been displaced from their homes. This includes £10 million that was released at the end of April. Our funds are being used to provide shelter, water, sanitation, food and medical services. We will take a decision about the provision of further support once the revised humanitarian appeal is launched next week and funding gaps are clear.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [275062]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ealing, Southall (Mr. Sharma) on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 855W.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the nature of the screening process for Tamil people displaced by the conflict in the north of the country upon entering the camps established by the government of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [275315]

Mr. Michael Foster: Security screening for civilians escaping the conflict zone initially takes place in an area of the Vanni to which no international humanitarian agencies have access. Secondary screening takes place at Omantai checkpoint where the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has only limited access to observe the screening process. There is no established security screening process in the IDP camps and there are reports of people being removed for questioning and detention. This lack of international observation continues to cause concern and the UK Government have repeatedly called for full access for international humanitarian agencies to assist and protect all displaced people on their journey to the camps.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many UN High Commission for Refugees *(a)* emergency and *(b)* field monitoring experts have been granted access to former battle areas in the conflict in the northern region of Sri Lanka. [275324]

Mr. Michael Foster: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has not had a permanent presence in the Vanni since September 2008 when the Government of Sri Lanka required all UN agencies and NGOs to leave. Until January 2009 there were occasional visits of UNHCR personnel aboard humanitarian convoys into the Vanni. But since January there has been no UNHCR access to the Vanni except restricted access to the IDP security screening centre at Omantai checkpoint. The UK Government have repeatedly called for full UN access to the conflict zone, and for a UN team to be allowed to make a full humanitarian assessment of the needs there. The UN Secretary General's Chief of Staff, Vijay Nambiar, went to Sri Lanka on 15 May to press for full humanitarian access and respect for international humanitarian standards.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of Tamil people who have been able to return to their homes in former battle areas in the conflict in the northern region of Sri Lanka. [275320]

Mr. Michael Foster: Only a few hundred people have been able to return to their homes in Mannar district—formerly longer term residents of two small camps which pre-date the present exodus of civilians. The UK Government have consistently pressed the Government of Sri Lanka to abide by its commitment to return 80 per cent. of the new displaced population by the end of the year.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the feasibility of delivering humanitarian aid by sea to Tamil people displaced by the conflict in the northern region of Sri Lanka; and what discussions he has had with the government of Sri Lanka on this matter. [275321]

Mr. Michael Foster: The only deliveries of aid to the conflict zone since February have been made by sea, all under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Recently, only very small consignments of 25 tonnes at a time have been possible. The overwhelming constraint is the reluctance of both parties to allow humanitarian access and permit the ICRC ships to enter the zone and unload supplies safely. The UK Government have continually pressed the Government of Sri Lanka to allow full humanitarian access to the conflict zone, including guaranteeing safe passage for a 1,000 tonne vessel which has not been able to return since last unloading on 8 April.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of camps established by the Sri Lankan Government for Tamil people displaced by the conflict in northern Sri Lanka; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* in such camps and *(b)* whose deaths are attributable to conditions in such camps. [275325]

Mr. Michael Foster: As at 12 May 194,303 people have been registered in more than 40 camps for displaced persons. More than 173,000 of these are in Vavuniya, most of them in three very large camps at Menik Farm. The conditions are far from ideal but starting slowly to improve. There are no reliable data available for deaths in the camps or to what extent those could be attributable to the conditions there. By far the greatest concern is the terrible loss of life in the conflict zone and in hospitals overwhelmed with sick and wounded patients.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the compatibility with international standards of the humanitarian conditions of the camps established by the Sri Lankan government for Tamil people displaced by the conflict in the north of Sri Lanka. [275329]

Mr. Michael Foster: In terms of international standards for assistance such as shelter, water and sanitation, food, health and education, the camps started from a very low standard but are gradually improving. Large influxes such as more than 113,000 people in one week made camp conditions very difficult to manage, particularly their sanitation. The UK Government have repeatedly pressed the Government of Sri Lanka to abide by international humanitarian standards and to work with humanitarian agencies to improve both protection and assistance, with a view to meeting their commitment of early return of at least 80 per cent. of the displaced population before the end of the year.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms are in place to ensure that humanitarian aid from his Department to assist Tamil people displaced by the conflict in the north of Sri Lanka is not misappropriated; and if he will make a statement. [275330]

Mr. Michael Foster: Department for International Development (DFID) assistance is provided directly only to United Nations and independent humanitarian organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, International Organisation for Migration and reputable international and national NGOs. DFID follows rigorous grant management procedures. Its humanitarian staff in Sri Lanka and London monitor and evaluate its programmes. No DFID humanitarian funding is transferred to the Government of Sri Lanka or any other governmental organisation in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of international aid workers who have access to the camps established by the Sri Lankan government for Tamil people displaced by the conflict in the north of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [275331]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have no firm figure. Access to Government of Sri Lanka controlled camps was a serious concern earlier this year, especially with regard to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). United Nations (UN) agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) generally had better access to the camps. The UK Government repeatedly pressed the Government of Sri Lanka for greatly increased access to the camps, especially for NGOs.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in the camps established by the Sri Lankan government for Tamil people displaced by the conflict in the *(a)* Wanni region and *(b)* Mullaitivu district who do not have access to humanitarian aid; and if he will make a statement. [275332]

Mr. Michael Foster: Although the situation is far from ideal the 194,303 internally displaced people registered in camps in Vavuniya, Jaffna and Mannar do have access to humanitarian assistance. The situation is improving slowly. However, the population trapped in the conflict zone in Mullaitivu district is almost entirely isolated from any humanitarian assistance. Only the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has any kind of access and is able only to deliver 25 tonnes of food and other emergency items three times a week to a population of at least 50,000—barely three days of food each week. The UK Government repeatedly press at the highest level for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to enable the ICRC to evacuate the sick and wounded and to deliver sufficient humanitarian aid.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [275067]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) and the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 844.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to meet the need for humanitarian assistance in Zimbabwe. [275063]

Mr. Thomas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer provided to my hon. Friend the Member for Dundee, West (Mr. McGovern) on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 841W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new lets there were by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords in each year since 1997. [273402]

Mr. Iain Wright: New lets are defined as the number of lets to new social housing tenants.

New lets are reported by local authorities annually, through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), covering the period 1 April to 31 March. The number of new lets made by local authorities in each year since 1996-97 is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of new lets[1] by local authorities since 1996-97, England

	Number of new lets (Thousand)
1996-97	260
1997-98	259
1998-99	249
1999-2000	235

Table 1: Number of new lets[1] by local authorities since 1996-97, England

	Number of new lets (Thousand)
2000-01	222
2001-02	198
2002-03	191
2003-04	162
2004-05	149
2005-06	133
2006-07	124
2007-08	111

[1] New lets includes both general needs and supported housing

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix

New lets by registered social landlords are available via the Continuous Recording of Lettings system (CORE), covering the period 1 April to 31 March. The number of new lets made by registered social landlords in each year since 1996-97 is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of new lets[1,2] by registered social landlords since 1996-97, England

	Number of new lets (Thousand)
1996-97	118
1997-98	128
1998-99	137
1999-2000	139
2000-01	140
2001-02	146
2002-03	146
2003-04	147
2004-05	141
2005-06	143
2006-07	147
2007-08	146

[1] New lets includes both general needs and supported housing.
[2] Registered social landlords with less than 250 stock are not required to complete CORE returns.

Source:
Continuous Recording of Lettings (CORE)

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275207]

Mr. Khan: The Department and its agencies have made no payments under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274510]

Mr. Khan: The Department has spent the following amount on *(a)* conference services for the last three years:

	Conference services (£)
2006-07	1,450,377
2007-08	1,836,863
2008-09	1,338,590

Owing to changes to the coding structure on the Department's finance system, figures for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The cost of any working meals cannot be disaggregated without disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member the answer I gave to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W.

Empty Property: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of properties were vacant in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [275832]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is provided in the following table.

The table shows the number of empty homes for each year between 2003 and 2008 for Essex and Castle Point with the number of those in the private sector empty for more than six months.

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Local authority (incl. owned by others)						
Castle Point	15	13	8	9	11	56
Essex	1,730	1,296	1,205	733	775	5,739
Registered social landlord						
Castle Point	7	8	4	13	9	41
Essex	305	388	531	550	653	2,427
Other public sector						
Castle Point	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	528	345	335	729	85	2,022
Private sector (non-RSL)						
Castle Point	767	889	927	1,070	994	4,647
Essex	16,420	16,292	19,248	17,918	19,282	89,160

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Total empty						
Castle Point	789	910	939	1,092	1,014	4,744
Essex	18,983	18,321	21,319	19,930	20,795	99,348
Private sector (non-RSL) + six months						
Castle Point	304	529	588	693	649	2,763
Essex	8,458	7,451	8,488	8,426	8,932	41,755

Source:
The Housing Strategy Statistical Appendices for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Buckingham of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 128W, on energy performance certificates, from which organisation her Department has commissioned research relating to the implementation of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. [275179]

Margaret Beckett: Communities and Local Government has commissioned AECOM (formerly Faber Maunsell) to undertake the research relating to the implementation of the energy performance of buildings directive.

Fire Services: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of the cost of the South West fire control centre project. [275442]

Mr. Khan: The full business case for the FiReControl project was published on 6 May. This sets out in detail the forecast costs of project implementation, and contains a South West specific annex. Copies of the business case have been placed in the Libraries of the House and can be found on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/firecontrolfullbusinesscase

Fire Stations: ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many and what proportion of computers in fire stations malware was detected in 2008. [275401]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the effect of the recession on the level of housing and planning delivery grant to be paid to each planning authority in 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [273545]

Mr. Iain Wright: A written ministerial statement on housing and planning delivery grant was made to the House by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Planning, on 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 45-46WS.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is planned to be spent on housing and planning delivery grant in each of the next three years. [276164]

Mr. Iain Wright: £135 million is to be spent on housing and planning delivery grant in 2009-10 and £200 million in 2010-11. No funding has been agreed beyond the current spending review period.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on *(a)* planning delivery grant and *(b)* the housing and planning delivery grant in each year since 2003. [276166]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is as follows.

Planning delivery grant allocations 2003-04 to 2007-08

Financial year	PDG (£ million)
2003-04	50
2004-05	130
2005-06	170
2006-07	135
2007-08	120
PDG total during SR02 and SR04 period	605

Housing and planning delivery grant allocations

Financial year	HPDG (£ million)
2008-09	101
2009-10 (to be allocated)	135
2010-11 (to be allocated)	200
HPDG total during CSR07period	436

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which HomeBuy agents have suspended applications for MyChoice HomeBuy; [275568]

(2) which regions have filled their MyChoice HomeBuy allocations for 2009-10; and when she expects the scheme to be opened to applicants again. [276163]

Margaret Beckett: Mychoice homebuy providers have fully committed their current funds for the scheme. To date the Government have invested £126 million in the scheme this year and are considering the next steps for funding. In managing the Affordable Housing programme, the Government need to strike the right balance between this scheme and other programmes that support the delivery of new homes, including social rented homes, which also support new supply and jobs. Applicants who are eligible for assistance to purchase a home under my choice homebuy are also eligible for our other homebuy products including homebuy direct and new build homebuy.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Rent to Homebuy scheme became operational. [276165]

Margaret Beckett: The rent to homebuy scheme became operational on 16 July 2008.

Housing: Rents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average *(a)* local authority, *(b)* registered social landlord and *(c)* private sector rental levels were as a percentage of average earnings in each year since 1997. [275949]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* Estimates of average rents, for local authority, registered social landlord and private sector tenants, as a percentage of average earnings are given in the following table for each year from 2002 to 2007. Comparable data prior to 2002 are not available.

The estimates are based on average rent data from a number of sources: CLG Housing Subsidy Claim Form; Housing Corporation (now Tenants Services Authority) HAR/10 and RSR; and Survey of English Housing (private rents). For each tenure, the percentage is calculated as the average rent for that tenure divided by the average earnings for England (all tenures).

Average rent as a percentage of average earnings, England, 2002-07

Percentage

Tenure	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Local authority	12	12	12	13	13	13
Registered social landlord	14	14	14	14	14	14
Private renters	29	29	28	28	29	29

Note:
All percentages (for all tenures) are based on the mean gross earnings for England.
Sources:
Local authority rents—CLG Housing Subsidy Claim form
Registered social landlord rents—Housing Corporation HAR/10 and RSR (Regulatory and Statistical Return)
Private rents—Survey of English Housing (free market rents)
Earnings—ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Inland Waterways: Planning Permission

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what policies her Department has in place for the protection of wharfs north of Prescott Lock from housing development. [275666]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* The protection of wharves for river-related use is a matter for the Mayor of London and the relevant local authority, which in this case is the London borough of Newham. The London Plan contains policies to protect a number of safeguarded commercial wharves on the Thames and the Lower Lea and to require referral to the Mayor of any proposals for non river-related uses of these wharves, including housing development. The borough development plans are required to reflect the strategic policies through the inclusion of detailed development control policies. In the case of the Lower Lea, north of Prescotts Lock, there are two safeguarded wharves, Mayer Parry and Priors wharves and these are protected through the saved policies of the Newham Unitary Development Plan of 2001. Change of use of unprotected wharves would be subject to the borough's general policies and, in determining applications for housing development, it would be for the council to judge the suitability of the proposal.

Owner Occupation: Social Mobility

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent research her Department has commissioned on links between home ownership and social mobility. [275556]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department published in February 2007 research on the links between home ownership and social mobility. The final research report is entitled: "Social Mobility and Homeownership: A Risk Assessment—final report" and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/newhorizonsresearch

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the percentage of *(a)* registered social landlord and *(b)* local authority residential properties which were built before (A) 1919, (B) 1965, (C) 1980 and (D) 1990; [274839]

(2) how many dwellings owned by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords were built prior to 1980. [275580]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows an estimate of the percentage of registered social landlord and local authority residential properties which were built before 1919, 1965, 1981 and 1990, and the number of dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords which were built prior to 1980.

Dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords by age, 2006

Dwelling age	Local authorities (Thousand)	Local authorities Percentage	Registered social landlords (Thousand)	Registered social landlords Percentage	All social landlords (Thousand)	All social landlords Percentage
Pre-1919	96	5	182	10	278	7

Dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords by age, 2006

Dwelling age	Local authorities (Thousand)	Local authorities Percentage	Registered social landlords (Thousand)	Registered social landlords Percentage	All social landlords (Thousand)	All social landlords Percentage
Pre-1965	1,252	60	621	44	2,073	53
Pre-1981	1,955	94	1,288	70	3,243	82

Source:
English House Condition Survey, 2006.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual turnover rate of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord tenancies was in each region in each year since 1997. [274860]

Mr. Iain Wright: The annual turnover rate has been produced by calculating the number of lettings as a percentage of total stock for each year.

A comparison between the figures provided for local authorities (LAs) and registered social landlords (RSLs) is not possible, because RSL figures cover general needs households, while LA figures also include supported needs.

The amount of local authority stock and number of lettings are reported annually by local authorities through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix. Table 1 gives turnover rates by region for all local authority stock for each year since 1997-98.

Table 1: Number of lettings as a percentage of total stock owned by local authority landlords, for each year since 1997-98, by region

Percentage

Region	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	14.2	13.8	14.0	13.6	13.1	13.0	11.2	11.5	10.7	9.7	11.1
North West	13.9	14.1	14.5	13.8	12.8	13.6	11.9	11.6	10.4	11.3	10.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	13.1	13.1	13.3	13.4	12.8	14.2	11.4	11.8	9.4	9.6	8.3
East Midlands	13.2	13.4	12.8	12.6	12.1	12.9	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.1	10.0
West Midlands	13.2	12.9	12.8	12.7	11.2	12.1	10.5	10.1	9.9	9.3	8.9
East of England	10.6	10.4	10.4	10.0	10.2	9.8	8.9	9.2	9.5	8.8	9.1
London	9.7	8.4	7.7	7.4	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	5.9	5.5
South East	10.9	10.5	10.2	10.1	9.1	9.6	9.6	9.2	9.1	8.8	8.6
South West	11.3	11.6	11.0	10.6	10.1	9.7	9.9	9.6	9.2	9.6	8.9
England	12.2	11.9	11.8	11.6	10.8	11.1	9.8	9.7	9.0	8.8	8.4

Notes:
1. Lettings are recorded over the period 1 April to 31 March. Stock figures are reported as at 1 April following this period.
2. Stock and lettings include both general needs and supported housing.

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, Sections A and D

The amount of RSL stock and the number of lettings are reported annually through the Regulatory Statistical Return. Table 2 gives turnover rates by region for stock owned by registered social landlords (RSLs) for each year since 1997-98. This covers general needs households only.

Table 2: Number of general needs lettings as a percentage of general needs stock owned by registered social landlords, for each year since 1997-98, by region

Percentage

Region	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	21.9	18.9	18.8	19.1	16.1	13.4	10.9	11.1	10.6	10.7	9.6
North West	17.5	15.9	14.4	14.8	16.2	12.7	12.1	10.4	10.2	9.4	8.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	21.7	20.1	19.5	17.8	18.3	14.1	15.0	10.5	11.3	10.5	10.8
East Midlands	24.9	19.6	17.7	18.4	17.2	15.6	16.4	16.2	14.0	14.3	12.9
West Midlands	15.8	14.1	13.7	13.8	14.1	11.7	11.3	10.5	10.1	9.8	9.7
East of England	16.0	15.5	13.6	13.2	12.4	11.6	10.8	9.7	9.2	9.5	10.1
London	11.0	10.0	8.9	9.2	9.9	8.8	8.9	9.1	7.7	8.9	9.3
South East	13.9	12.5	11.6	10.7	11.9	11.2	11.3	11.1	11.1	9.5	9.1
South West	16.0	10.8	12.0	11.5	13.3	11.9	11.4	11.3	10.8	10.5	10.6
England	15.8	13.9	13.1	12.9	13.6	11.8	11.5	10.7	10.1	9.9	9.7

Notes:
1. Stock figures are reported as at 31 March each year; lettings are recorded over the period 1 April to 31 March.
2. Figures from 2000-01 and earlier relate to self-contained stock only.

Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Return Part N (1998 to 2001), part 0 (2002 to 2008).

Repossession Orders: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions initiated by *(a)* building societies and *(b)* banks there were in (i) Barnsley, (ii) Doncaster and (iii) South Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [275819]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas) on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 818W.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the merits of transferring social housing stock from local authority to registered social landlord control. [275482]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities who wish to consider transferring their social housing to a registered social landlord (RSL) need to ensure that there are clear benefits from doing so and that the proposal would have the support of tenants. The Department has published guidance to local authorities, the Housing Transfer Manual 2005 and a 2006 supplement, which sets out the process and assessments required.

The Homes and Communities Agency has a responsibility to consider housing transfer applications from local authorities, and the Tenant Services Authority considers from a regulatory perspective the position of the RSL to whom the housing is proposed to be transferred. Housing transfer only takes place where it has the support of tenants, and has the legal consent of the Secretary of State.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average age of a dwelling owned by a *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord was in each of the last five years. [275573]

Mr. Iain Wright: Provisional figures for the average age of social housing in England, as at May 2009, are:

(a) Local authority dwellings—53 years;

(b) Housing association dwellings—44 years.

Equivalent statistics for previous years are not available but it should be noted that there is little change in the age profile of the stock from year to year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authority tenants received a cash incentive to vacate their home in each of the last five years. [276145]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck) on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 322W, and on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 554-56W.

Urban Areas: Regeneration

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps her Department has taken to provide *(a)* guidance and *(b)* assistance to (i) regional and (ii) local organisations in relation to town centre regeneration projects. [275447]

Mr. Khan: On 14 April we published "Looking after our town centres", which sets out the range of powers, guidance and approaches that can help local authorities and their partners promote the vitality and viability of town centres, and explains additional steps that the Government are taking to enable further positive action to be taken, particularly through the temporary use of empty shops.

We also recently issued, for public consultation, "Planning for Prosperous Economies", a new Planning Policy Statement streamlining planning policy for economic development. This includes policy on town centres currently in Planning Policy Statement 6. We are also consulting on associated guidance. Together these will strengthen the Government's "town centre first" policy and support regeneration schemes.

We also set out clear principles for working at regional and local levels when we launched the next stage of the Regeneration Framework on 11 May. This explains the Government's vision for regeneration and the steps we are now taking to keep regeneration moving in the current economic conditions. It takes a holistic approach—ensuring physical, social and economic regeneration are planned and delivered together.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in North-East Fife constituency qualified for cold weather payments in each of the last five years. [270859]

Kitty Ussher: No cold weather payments were triggered for eligible people living in the post code area covering the North-East Fife constituency in the years 2004-05 to 2006-07. Cold weather payments were triggered once for this post code area in 2007-2008 and either once or twice in 2008-09, dependent on the relevant weather station. However, it is not possible to give a figure for the number of people who qualified for a cold weather payment, as this information is not available at constituency level, only by weather station.

Crisis Loans: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid out in crisis loans by each Essex jobcentre in each year since 2005. [271987]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available in the format requested. Information on crisis loan expenditure is not available by Jobcentre Plus office.

Foreign Workers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* non-UK and *(b)* non-EU citizens applied for a national insurance number in each region in each of the last five years. [268452]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the tables.

The statistics show the total number of national insurance numbers allocated—not the number of migrants living in the UK. We know that many people come to work for a short period and then return—the national insurance number statistics do not measure people leaving the UK. They should not be used to make estimates about the number of foreign nationals living in the UK at a particular time.

Total number of non-UK and non-EU registrations for national insurance numbers in each Government office region

Thousand

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Government office region	*Non-UK total*	*Non-EU*	*Non-UK total*	*Non-EU*	*Non-UK total*	*Non-EU*
Total	373.5	258.51	435.33	237.19	663.06	287.97
Scotland	15.96	10.3	23.44	11.02	41.40	13.82
North East	5.88	4.69	7.36	5.08	10.93	5.84
North West	23.67	18.21	31.22	17.32	48.81	18.71
Yorkshire and the Humber	18.92	15.3	19.98	11.91	36.50	14.53
Wales	7.09	4.95	10.04	4.87	16.64	5.91
West Midlands	23.9	18.84	28.01	16.80	42.04	17.42
East Midlands	16.55	12.56	23.56	11.69	38.72	12.78
East of England	26.48	17.89	34.62	15.93	52.78	18.48
South East	43.49	30.4	51.00	26.61	80.24	33.38
London	157.42	107.63	169.71	100.36	235.44	129.09
South West	16.07	10.71	22.57	10.77	34.06	11.83
Northern Ireland	4.58	2.12	5.74	2.23	16.06	3.04
Overseas residents	13.89	4.76	8.11	2.66	9.43	2.95

Thousand

	2006-07		2007-08	
Government office region	*Non-UK total*	*Non-EU*	*Non-UK total*	*Non-EU*
Total	705.84	285.13	733.09	292.70
Scotland	51.89	16.33	52.41	17.36
North East	13.33	6.49	12.23	6.42
North West	51.12	18.47	51.18	19.42
Yorkshire and the Humber	41.33	15.20	42.16	15.68
Wales	16.72	5.82	16.35	6.21
West Midlands	47.23	17.81	46.63	18.01
East Midlands	40.72	11.89	38.45	11.19
East of England	52.73	17.42	51.79	17.09
South East	79.33	32.96	82.83	33.16
London	340.93	124.31	272.71	132.49
South West	41.23	12.59	38.90	11.83
Northern Ireland	19.68	2.70	17.64	2.35
Overseas residents	9.58	3.15	9.80	1.44

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and displayed in thousands. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. Registration date is derived from the date at which a national insurance number is maintained on the National Insurance Recording System.
3. Government Office region improvements have been made to the allocation of migrants whose residential address is incomplete. Figures reflect the best estimate of an overseas national's locality at the time of registering for a national insurance number.
4. Financial year of registration date years are financial based (1 April to 31 March).
5. Non-EU registrations are included in the non-UK total figures.
6. Data are published at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
7. Non-EU nationals—based on a client's nationality. The mapping for "world areas" is based on the present day.
8. Bulgaria and Romania are listed as EU accession states for the entire Back Series. "European Union" excludes the accession states.
9. The latest year that full year data is available is 2007-08.

Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in England were in receipt of housing benefit on 1 April 2009 in each of the last five years. [275478]

Kitty Ussher: Information is not available for 1 April each year; the available information is in the table.

Number of recipients of housing benefit in England: as at May each year

	Number
2003	3,161,380
2004	3,232,600

Number of recipients of housing benefit in England, as at May each year

	Number
2005	3,314,900
2006	3,358,000
2007	3,401,600

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. The figures are for May which relate to the second Thursday of May each year.
5. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
6. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

Housing Benefit: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed housing benefit in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* the East of England in each of the last 10 years. [275224]

Kitty Usher: The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit recipients in Cambridgeshire and the East of England as at August each year

	Cambridgeshire	East of England
1998	26,700	311,500
1999	24,600	295,500
2000	23,500	275,500
2001	22,500	270,800
2002	22,400	267,900
2003	22,800	271,400
2004	23,900	282,100
2005	24,600	289,200
2006	25,100	297,100
2007	25,600	302,100

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data has been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in August 1997 to August 2001.
Information for August 2002 to August 2007 has been taken from:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

Housing Benefit: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many social housing tenants in receipt of housing benefit had their access to benefit withdrawn following a determination that they had been subletting a social home in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [274875]

Kitty Usher: The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what courses are delivered by Jobcentre Plus programme centres. [271701]

Mr. McNulty: Programme centre provision is delivered via a range of job search modules and soft skill development modules to reflect the needs of employers and the local labour market. Provision is tailored to meet the individual needs of the customer. The following table lists the modules available. However, it is not exhaustive as providers may develop new modules subject to the approval of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobsearch Modules

Induction
Contract Setting
Employment/Unemployment
Overcoming hurdles to finding work
Action Planning
Labour Market Intelligence
Personal Stocktaking - Skills/Strengths/Experience
Individual Advice and Guidance
Setting Job Goals
CV's
Job Leads (Where to find the hidden vacancies)
Analysing Vacancies
Telephone Techniques
Letters of Application
Preparation for Interviews
Mock Interviews
Training Opportunities/Individual Learning Accounts/Life Long Learning
Managing Time
Back to Work Benefits
Starting Your Job
Keeping Your Job
Coping With Setbacks
Assertive Jobseeking
Self-Employment

Soft Skill Development Modules

Attitude - Lifeskills/Learning Culture
Financial awareness, money handling, paying bills
Work Ethic
Grooming/Personal appearance, interpersonal skills
Motivation - Job appropriate/worthwhile
Redressing low aspirations
Recruitment systems/processes
IT awareness (not occupational skills) essentials - keyboard, navigation, email, internet Employer Visits
Occupational expectations (realism)
Telephone skills
Customer care
Life skills - turning up, time keeping, getting to work/travel support mechanisms, lunch, concentration, stamina, routine
Working with colleagues

National Insurance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications from *(a)* British citizens, *(b)* EU citizens and *(c)* citizens from countries outside the EU for a national insurance number were received by each office issuing national insurance numbers in London in each of the last five years; how many staff were employed at each such office in each such year; and what the cost was of operating each office in each such year. [268389]

Mr. McNulty: The available information on national insurance number (NINo) registrations in London Government office region is in the table.

NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, in London Government office region by EU/Non-EU status

Financial year	EU nationals	Thousands Non-EU nationals
2003-04	49.49	107.63
2004-05	69.06	100.36
2005-06	106.12	129.09
2006-07	116.43	124.31
2007-08	140.05	132.49

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and displayed in thousands. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. Registration date is derived from the date at which a NINo is maintained on the National Insurance Recording System.
3. Government office region improvements have been made to the allocation of migrants whose residential address is incomplete. Figures reflect the best estimate of an overseas national's locality at the time of registering for a NINo.
4. The mapping for "world areas" is based on the present day. Bulgaria and Romania are listed as EU accession states for the entire Back Series. European Union excludes the accession states.
5. Financial year of registration date years are financial based (1 April to 31 March).
6. The latest year that full year data is available is 2007-08. In the first two quarters from April to September 2008, there have been some 69.74 thousand national insurance numbers allocated to EU nationals and 66.4 thousand allocated to non-EU nationals.

Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System.

The statistics show the number of adult overseas nationals (by Government office region) entering the UK and registering for a NINo in order to work or to claim benefits and tax credits. As such they are one measure of in-migration to the UK. However, they do not represent the number of migrants living in the UK at a point in time, nor are they consistent with estimates of Government office region migrant populations. Nor do they represent the distribution of employment of migrants—as they provide information on where the individual lived at the time they registered for a NINo; they may have since moved.

Information on full-time equivalent staff numbers and operating costs is not collated for each individual office and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Natural Gas: Safety

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the terms of the contract agreed with Capita for the operation of the Gas Safe Register are; what the key performance indicators are; and how (i) performance and (ii) value for money will be reviewed. [276284]

Kitty Ussher: The Services Concession Agreement entered into by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) with Capita Gas Registration and Ancillary Services Ltd. for the operation of the Gas Safe Register is a commercially confidential document. The performance and value for money of the Gas Safe Register will be measured against eight key performance indicators, which are published on the HSE website.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to Question 254755, on cold weather payments, tabled on 3 February 2009; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [271999]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 866-7W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Lone Parents

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost would be of paying a work-related activity premium of *(a)* £10, *(b)* £20 and *(c)* £30 per week to lone parents with children aged under seven years in 2009-10. [270109]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* There are approximately 460,000 lone parents on income support with a youngest child under the age of seven.

Assuming that this remains constant, the annual cost of paying all lone parents with a child aged under seven a work-related activity premium is in the table.

Cost of paying a work-related activity premium to all lone parents on income support with a youngest child under the age of seven

Work-related activity premium	Annual cost (£ million)
£10 per week	240
£20 per week	480
£30 per week	720

Notes:
1. Costs are rounded to the nearest £5 million.
2. Costs depend upon case loads. The average number of lone parents on income support over the last year was 460,000, but higher numbers would mean higher costs, and vice versa.

As this is not Government policy these costs assume all lone parents with a youngest child under the age of seven receive a work-related activity premium.

They reflect only the additional cost of paying the premium, and not any additional costs associated with ensuring additional provision is made available through, for example, the new deal for lone parents programme.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Advisory Services

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in piloting an insured advice helpline for employment and health and safety regulations as referred to in the Government's response to the Anderson Review of Good Guidance. [274368]

Mr. Thomas: In its response to the Anderson Review the Government undertook to develop an approach to this recommendation by spring 2009. We will shortly be making an announcement on our piloting strategy.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275210]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has made the following payments covering interest for late payment of invoices under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998:

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2006-07	1,116
2007-08	0
2008-09	0

Prior to the creation of BERR in June 2007, the payments covering interest for late payment of invoices relate to payments made by the Department of Trade and Industry.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 18 May 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 8 May 2009, UIN 275210, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has not paid any interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 18 May 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and its predecessor and (b) its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform made no payments of interest to suppliers for late payment of invoices in the last three years.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* his Department spent on furniture in 2008-09 and *(b)* his Department's agencies spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273745]

Mr. Thomas: This Department's published *"Annual Report and Accounts"* contains information on its tangible fixed assets, which includes an additions category entitled *"furniture, fixtures and fittings"*.

These accounts can be found on the BERR website at the following address:

www.berr.gov.uk.

Information for 2008-09 is still subject to audit and will be published in the 2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts on 17 July 2009.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 18 May 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 5 May 2009, UIN 273745, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has spent the following amounts on furniture in the last five years:

Financial Year	*Amount (£)*
2004-05	548,761
2005-06	83,999
2006-07	37,406
2007-08	41,554
2008-09	12,825

The high costs in 2004-05 and 2005-06 were as a result of establishing a new office in Nantgarw, north of Cardiff.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 18 May 2009:

I refer to your question to ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, how much (a) his Department spent on furniture in 2008-09 and (b) his Department's agencies spent on furniture in each of the last five years.

The Insolvency Service expenditure on furniture for the last five years is shown in the table below:

Year	*Expenditure (£)*
2008-09	869,363
2007-08	683,666
2006-07	678,952
2005-06	526,985
2004-05	149,160

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005. [274457]

Ian Pearson: In 2008, one BlackBerry was lost by a Minister and one by a special adviser. The numbers lost by civil servants are shown in the following table.

	Mobile Phones	*Blackberry's*
2005	11	3
2006	14	3
2007	2	12
2008	2	13
2009[1]	0	5

[1] 30 April

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1128W, on the economic situation, what expenditure was incurred by his Department under each budgetary heading for each of the summits, conferences and seminars held for which the primary focus was the effects of the economic situation. [270696]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 23 April 2009]*: Information on expenditure on summits was provided in my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. McFadden) answer to the hon. Member on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 557W.

Information on expenditure on the conferences and seminars referred to in my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. McFadden) answer to the hon. Member on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1128W, is as follows:

	Total	*Venue*	£ *Catering*
Conferences			
Small Business Forum	777.25	490.00	287.25
Prompt Payment Forum	174.60	137.50	37.10
S.O.S Panel on Monitoring the Economy (four occasions)	1,506.25	392.50	1,114.00
	1,197.40	343.75	854.00
	783.75	343.75	440.00
	747.50	305.00	443.00
S.O.S Meeting with Automotive Industry	784.00	287.00	497.00
Lord Davies (no meeting title)	131.00	110.00	21.60
Economic Integration Conference	1,767.50	1,125.00	642.50
RDA Chairs Ministers Meeting (two occasions)	332.90	275.00	57.90
	519.30	410.00	109.30
Round Table Meeting	441.45	303.40	138.00
Ministerial Advisory Group on Manufacturing (two occasions)	384.80	328.00	56.80
	368.85	328.00	40.85
Seminars			
Economic Impact of Migrant Workers	368.25	328.00	40.25
Knowledge Sharing	820.00	820.00	—
Senior Economist Meeting (four occasions)	109.05	82.50	26.55
	159.65	137.50	22.15
	168.20	137.50	30.70
	168.20	137.50	30.70
Senior Whitehall Stakeholder Group for Business (two occasions)	600.50	410.00	190.50
	474.00	410.00	64.00

The events listed pertained to a broad range of different issues within Ministers' briefs—from small business to consumer protection and the automotive industry. It also includes interdepartmental meetings between Whitehall economic experts.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the rate *(a)* per minute and *(b)* per three minutes charged to a caller to a number operated by his Department and its agencies beginning with (i) 084 and (ii) 03 is. [275145]

Ian Pearson: This Department is unable to confirm the cost of calling the 084 numbers in use, as rates will vary dependent upon the tariffs applied by each caller's telephone service supplier. The Department does not deploy any 03 numbers.

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average duration of a call to a telephone number beginning with *(a)* 084 and *(b)* 03 operated by his Department and its agencies was in the last period for which figures are available. [275146]

Ian Pearson: The information available on call duration to the Department's 084 numbers is limited to the three numbers supplied by the main telephone supplier, Global Crossing. For the first quarter of 2009 the average call duration for these 084 numbers was two minutes and nine seconds. The Department does not use 03 numbers.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274211]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's budgets for training are devolved to individual directorates. IT training, whether it relates to routine or project-related activities, is not separately itemised on the Department's accounting system and the amount that was spent on it within overall training budgets could be ascertained only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Tribunals Service

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many of the 678 equal pay claims upheld at an employment tribunal in 2007-08 related to the employer with the greatest number of cases reaching an employment tribunal in that year; [275376]

(2) how many employers had equal pay claims upheld against them in 2007-08. [275377]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Employment Tribunal does not keep the information which the hon. Member has requested in a readily available format. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from his Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273443]

Mr. Thomas: Over the last 12 months up to the end of April 2009, it is estimated that 16,350 kgs of waste food was disposed of by BERR's catering service provider from its restaurant facility at 1 Victoria street.

It is not possible to estimate the monetary value of this waste as information is not held centrally and collating this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Gambling Commission

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which review model was used by the Hampton review team in its assessment of the Gambling Commission; and on how many occasions the Review Team met the Gambling Commission for the purposes of the assessment. [274173]

Ian Pearson: Under the Hampton implementation review framework, regulators are reviewed under one of two models, depending on their size, scope and impact, to ensure that reviews are proportionate to the organisation in question.

The Gambling Commission was assessed under the 'Model 1' framework whereby a review team of experienced individuals from the Better Regulation Executive, National Audit Office, the Security Industry Authority and the EEF assessed the work of the Commission over a one-week period. The review team conducted a combination of interviews with senior staff, with representatives of the gambling sector, and with individual regulated businesses, as well as shadowing the work of Commission inspectors.

The review framework and both the Model 1 and Model 2 methodologies are set out on the BERR website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/bre/inspection-enforcement/implementing-principles/reviewing-regulators/page44054.html.

The review team met with a wide range of Commission staff, including both Commission members and Executive staff ranging from the Chief Executive to their compliance and advisory staff over the course of 6 October to 10 October.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the rules against misleading omissions under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 will apply to property information questionnaires in home information packs. [273720]

Mr. Thomas: The rules on misleading omissions in the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) will apply to Property information questionnaires (PIQs) where they constitute a marketing communication between a trader (as part of his business) and a consumer. The rules prohibit the provision of unclear material information or the hiding or omission of material information which the consumer needs in the circumstances.

We believe that an estate agent acting for a consumer seller would not normally breach the rules on misleading omissions in the CPRs where the PIQ had been completed by the seller.

Housing: Sales

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department has issued on the effect of *(a)* the Cancellation of Contracts Made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc Regulations 2008 and *(b)* Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 on the (i) sale and (ii) marketing of (A) homes and (B) home information packs. [272340]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has produced general guidance, available on the BERR website at:

www.berr.gov.uk

about the Cancellation of Contracts Made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc. Regulations 2008. The Office of Fair Trading has published joint OFT/BERR branded general guidance, available on the OFT website at:

www.oft.gov.uk

about the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. The guidance details the steps that any business, that is subject to the regulations, must take to comply with the regulations.

Motor Vehicles: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on whether the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation (EC) 1400/2002 should expire in 2010; and what discussions he has had with the motor repair industry on this matter. [274351]

Mr. Thomas: On the basis of detailed discussion with EU member states, the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation will be extended or otherwise by the European Commission as this falls within their competence under Article 81 (3) of the European Treaty. We have expressed concerns about access to information, particularly technical information, and parts for the independent aftermarket, and have made several representations to the European Commission on the subject. Most other EU member states have expressed similar concerns. I would expect these concerns to be addressed in any formal proposals by the European Commission.

Officials from BERR and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) have been in discussion with representative groups from the motor vehicle industry including the 'Right to Repair' campaign throughout the review of the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation and these helpful contacts will continue.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold an inquiry into the actions of Visteon UK and Ford UK to establish responsibility for pension and redundancy payments for employees made redundant by each company; and if he will make a statement. [269820]

Ian Pearson: As indicated during the debate in the House on 30 April, BERR is in contact with Visteon UK. I understand that the unions and the Visteon corporation have agreed a much improved redundancy package and that staff at the three Visteon UK plants voted overwhelmingly to accept it. I hope that the necessary payments can be made as soon as is possible. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many times Ministers in his Department have met representatives of the Post Bank Coalition in the last six months. [269074]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs attended the Post Bank Coalition's launch event on 17 March and regularly meets representatives of a range of post office network stakeholders and other interested parties.

Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what new powers the provisions of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 will provide for local authorities. [272412]

Mr. Thomas: Part 3 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 allows a Minister, by order, to give local authorities and other regulators access to four new civil sanctions:

Fixed monetary penalties

Discretionary requirements

which will enable a regulator to impose, by notice, one or more of the following:

a variable monetary penalty determined by the regulator;

a requirement to take specified steps within a stated period to secure that an offence does not continue or happen again; and

a requirement to take specified steps within a stated period to secure that the position is restored, so far as possible, to what it would have been if no offence had been committed.

Stop notices

which will prevent a business from carrying on an activity described in the notice until it has taken steps to come back into compliance.

Enforcement undertakings

which will enable a business, which a regulator reasonably suspects of having committed an offence, to give an undertaking to a regulator to take one or more corrective actions set out in the undertaking.

To date, no orders have been made under part 3 and so local authorities cannot yet access the new powers.

Part 2 of the Act, which commenced on 6 April 2009, established the primary authority scheme. The scheme allows businesses, charities or other organisations that operate across more than one site, to enter into a partnership with a local authority for it to become a primary authority. As well as promoting consistency, the scheme is intended to help local authorities decide what action will be necessary and proportionate in a given circumstance to bring about a successful outcome with the minimum burden to an organisation.

Where the Local Better Regulation Office has registered a primary authority, any other local authority that proposes to take enforcement action against an organisation must contact the primary authority first. The primary authority can then block the proposed enforcement action if it believes that it is inconsistent with advice or guidance that it has previously given. In situations where action is urgently required to prevent harm, the Act allows local authorities to proceed immediately and inform the primary authority as soon as possible after taking the action. Under the scheme, a local authority may reclaim costs incurred while acting as a primary authority on a cost recovery basis.

Retirement: Age

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to prevent employers using mandatory retirement ages. [275857]

Ian Pearson: The UK does not have a national mandatory retirement age. The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 introduced a default retirement age of 65, which allows employers to use retirement at 65 as a tool for workforce planning. However, employers do not have to retire employees once they reach 65. They are free to continue to employ them for as long as they like, and employees are entitled to request to continue working beyond 65.

As the Government clearly stated when the regulations were introduced, we are committed to undertaking an evidence based review of the default retirement age five years after its introduction. This provides sufficient time for the regulations to bed in and helps business to plan with certainty. We will be gathering the evidence needed to enable us to undertake this review in 2011. If the conclusion of the review is that the evidence demonstrates a default retirement age is no longer necessary, we will take the necessary steps to remove it.

WPP

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1186W, on WPP, what matters were discussed at the meeting. [269033]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* I understand general business issues were discussed.

JUSTICE

Council Tax: Non-payment

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many council tax liability orders have been issued by magistrates to local authorities in England and Wales in each year from 1998 to 2008. [273674]

Mr. Straw: Statistics on the number of orders issued, as opposed to the number of applications made, are not available. The following table shows the number of applications for council tax and business rate liability orders made to magistrates courts during the financial

years 2005-06 to 2008-09 inclusive. These liability orders attract the same fee charge, and are therefore recorded on the internet fees accounting system (IFAS) in the same way. It is not possible to distinguish between applications for liability orders made in relation to council tax and business rates.

Number of applications for council tax and business rate liability orders made to magistrates courts in England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2008-09

	Number of applications made
2005-06	2,438,305
2006-07	2,632,923
2007-08	2,867,390
2008-09	3,124,406

Centrally-held figures are not available for earlier years because HM Courts Service only assumed direct responsibility for the magistrates courts with effect from April 2005.

Damages

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to the consultation on the law on damages; what the reasons are for the time taken; and if he will make a statement. [274733]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1253W, to his earlier question on this subject.

The consultation on the law on damages closed on 27 July 2007. The consultation paper considered proposals put forward in a series of Law Commission reports and consequently covered a number of distinct and complex issues. There were 103 responses, many very detailed, that required careful consideration. This work has taken longer than planned, partly because of the scale or the response and the inherent complexity, and partly because of by the need to divert resources to deal with other pressing issues. The Government do, however, intend to publish a response paper outlining the way forward as soon as possible.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* review and *(b)* task-force projects his Department and its predecessor have commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275970]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not hold this information centrally. To collate this level of information would require a detailed trawl across the Department which would entail disproportionate cost.

However, information on major reports and reviews undertaken by the Department on a wide range of issues can be accessed at the following link from the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/policy-reports.htm

It also contains Green Papers, White Papers and Government responses to parliamentary committee reports on major policy reviews.

Publications and follow-up reports on the Department's regular research programme, as well as any special projects that MOJ initiates can also be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research.htm

Information on MOJ consultations, both open and closed, can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations.htm

Land Registry: Fraud

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much compensation has been paid by HM Land Registry in respect of property fraud in each of the last 10 years. [275155]

Mr. Wills: The figures requested are shown in the following table. The increase in the level of payments in 2005-06 was principally caused by one fraudulent transfer which resulted in payments of more than £8.1 million. The raised level of payments in subsequent years is attributable to a range of factors—including increasing numbers of registered transactions, greater availability of credit providing more opportunities for fraudsters, increases in property values resulting in the losses from each fraud being higher, and more professional as opposed to domestic frauds. The number of frauds must be seen against the overall numbers of transactions processed in each year. For example, in 2007-08, Land Registry processed 5,638,226 applications to alter the register and there were 60 successful indemnity claims based on fraud.

	Indemnity payments relating to fraud (£)	*Number of fraud related indemnity claims*
1998-99	231,540	17
1999-2000	89,226	15
2000-01	245,457	9
2001-02	99,320	7
2002-03	254,930	4
2003-04	151,626	12
2004-05	293,599	15
2005-06	8.6 million	31
2006-07	2.1 million	24
2007-08	3.9 million	60
2008-09[1]	5.07 million	62
Total	21.04 million	256

[1] The figures for 2008-09 are based on information currently available to be finalised when Land Registry's audited accounts are published later this year. This figure can change. The Audit Committee are due to sign off the accounts in June.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* title registries and *(b)* deeds for properties which have been altered by fraudulent means in each of the last 10 years. [275159]

Mr. Wills: It is not possible to provide these figures as no such estimates have been made. Land Registry tracks the level of fraudulent alterations to the register by reference to claims received for indemnity based on fraud rather than against estimates of the number of fraudulent alterations which would necessarily be speculative.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of property fraud in each of the last 10 years. [275169]

Mr. Wills: No such estimates have been made.

Offenders: Mental Health Services

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to ensure that the mental health needs of ex-service personnel involved in the criminal justice system are met. [275918]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Ex-service personnel, including those within the criminal justice system, have access to national health service treatment and services. Prison mental health care transferred fully to primary care trusts in 2006, and all prison mental health services are now mainstreamed within the NHS. On entering custody, the reception screening tool assesses all prisoners' health concerns, including mental illness, and can refer them to mental health in-reach teams within the criminal justice system. A person whose mental illness is too severe to justify their remaining in prison can be transferred to NHS secure services.

In its response to Lord Bradley's report on people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system, the Government make it clear that veterans involved in the criminal justice system is an important group, and whose needs will also be taken into account as the delivery plan to address Lord Bradley's recommendations is developed.

Orchard Lodge Secure Unit

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Youth Justice Board decided to close the Orchard Lodge Unit in Anerley. [275557]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board will be commissioning 191 beds in Secure Children's Homes in England and Wales from 1 July 2009. This figure was determined by examining the average level of demand for secure training centre and secure children's home beds over a three-year period and determining the optimum number of secure children's home beds to be commissioned in the current contracting round.

The Youth Justice Board's decision not to offer Orchard Lodge a new contract was taken following a comprehensive evaluation of a tender exercise. The evaluation panel assessed the quality of all tenders received based on the quality of the responses to the specifications issued, and a financial evaluation on submitted bed prices. Any decision about the future of Orchard Lodge will be taken by the private operator, Glen Care.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the prison population foreign nationals comprised in each of the last five years. [274194]

Mr. Straw: The following table provides the numbers of prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June in each year from 2004 to 2008, showing the percentage of foreign national prisoners:

	All prisoners (number)	*Foreign nationals (number)*	*Foreign nationals (percentage)*
2004	74,488	8,941	12
2005	76,190	9,651	13
2006	77,982	10,879	14
2007	79,734	11,093	14
2009	83,194	11,498	14

These figures include foreign national prisoners serving their sentence, those on remand pending prosecution and those being held under immigration powers pending deportation action.

These figures are available on the Ministry of Justice website:

For the period 2004 to 2007:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

For 2008:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody-2008.htm

Data on foreign national prisoners are published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, again on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody .htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Discipline

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison disturbances requiring the deployment of *(a)* Tornado support officers and *(b)* the police there have been in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 12 years for which figures are available; and what the (i) cause, (ii) nature and (iii) cost to the public purse of the disturbance was in each case. [272821]

Mr. Hanson: The information is not held in the form required and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. There are a variety of types of incident where Tornado teams may be deployed, predominantly concerted indiscipline, hostage taking and incidents at height. As Tornado teams will not have been deployed to all of these incidents, the information could be obtained only by examining each incident in detail. Similarly police presence at incidents is not centrally recorded.

There have been just four major incidents of disorder since 1996, and the incident at Ashwell in April was the first since the disturbance at Lincoln in October 2002. Between 1990 and 1995 there were 11 major incidents of disorder, including Manchester, which lasted 25 days, and Pucklechurch, where the entire prison was destroyed (both in 1990).

Probation Boards: Pay

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what average percentage of probation board and trust expenditure was incurred on salaries paid in respect of management positions higher than Band 4 on the national job evaluation scheme in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in 2008-09; [275385]

(2) what average percentage of probation board and trust expenditure was on probation board members' (a) salaries and (b) associated expenses in (i) England and (ii) Wales in the last 12 months. [275386]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally and is not available in the format requested in the 42 probation areas where it is held. To obtain this information would therefore incur a disproportionate cost.

Repossession Orders: Mortgages

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many court orders for action in relation to mortgage arrears have been issued in each of the last five years; [275537]

(2) how many court orders were issued in respect of mortgage arrears in each region in the latest period for which figures are available; [275538]

(3) how many repossession orders have been issued by courts in England and Wales in respect of mortgage arrears in each of the last five years; [275539]

(4) how many repossession orders have been issued by the courts in each of the English regions in respect of mortgage arrears in each of the last five years. [275540]

Bridget Prentice: The number of mortgage possession orders made in each year from 1990 and in each quarter from 2004 are available via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/stats-mortgage-land-q1-2009.pdf

The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made in England and Wales and each Government office region in the last five years and in the first quarter of 2009.

This breakdown is based on the location of the court which heard the case, rather than the exact location of the property which was the subject of the case.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold information centrally on the breakdown of mortgage possession orders according to the nature of dispute. This is because one of the main administrative computer systems used in the county courts for possession cases (CaseMan) does not identify the specific nature of dispute for these orders. Changing the administrative system to create the necessary field to capture this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The number of mortgage possession orders made in each county court of England and Wales in each year from 1987 to 2008 can be viewed using the following web link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made[2, 3] in the county courts of England and Wales, by Government office region in which the court is located, 2004-08

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*	2009 Qtr 1[4]
East	4,647	7,058	8,421	8,212	10,334	1,604
East Midlands	3,619	5,511	7,179	7,807	9,690	1,401
London	7,788	13,110	15,214	14,120	15,318	2,274
North East	2,145	3,290	5,211	5,698	7,059	1,184
North West	6,492	9,115	13,222	14,968	19,150	2,903
South East	6,682	10,024	11,629	11,548	13,018	2,274
South West	3,254	4,956	5,776	5,763	7,736	1,065
West Midlands	5,318	7,606	10,223	11,290	14,342	1,789
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,091	6,349	8,511	9,459	12,112	1,821
England	44,036	67,019	85,386	88,865	108,759	16,315
Wales	2,647	3,945	5,440	6,048	8,113	1,272
England and Wales	46,683	70,964	90,826	94,913	116,872	17,587

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.
[2] The court, follow hg a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[3] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[4] Figures for the latest quarter are provisional.

Note:
The Mortgage Pre Action Protocol for possession claims relating to mortgage or home purchase arrears was introduced on 19 November 2008. Its introduction has coincided with a substantial fall in the number of new mortgage possession claims in 2008 quarter 4 and subsequently in the number of mortgage possession orders in 2009 quarter 1.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 533W, on terrorism: compensation, which *(a)* Departmental officials and *(b)* Ministers have been appointed to the working group on support for victims of terrorism abroad; what options are being considered by that working group; what timetable has been set for that working group to report; and when he next expects that working group to meet. [275950]

Mr. Straw: The working group brings together officials from across Government and includes representatives from the following Departments:

Humanitarian Assistance Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Ministry of Justice
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority
Ministry of Defence
Northern Ireland Office
Scotland Office
HM Treasury.

There will be a separate ministerial group which will include the Minister with responsibility for humanitarian assistance, a Foreign Office Minister, the Home Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Justice Secretary.

The working group of officials will look at all available options and put together detailed proposals for consideration by the ministerial group.

The working group will meet regularly and is expected to report to Ministers in the summer.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/25 Lord Braine of Wheatley's Partial Birth Abortion (Prohibition) Bill; and if he will make a statement; [264612]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/6 Lord Robertson of Oakridge, Abortion Amendment Bill Briefing for Legislation Committee and Second Reading Debate; and if he will make a statement; [264614]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/4 10 Minute Rule Bill (Jo Richardson) NHS Act 1977 (Amendment) Bill; and if he will make a statement. [266970]

Dawn Primarolo: A copy of the files has been placed in the Library.

Care Homes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leicester are operated by (i) local authorities and (ii) private enterprises; and what estimate he has made of the number of persons over 60 years old resident in each category of home. [273693]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that the numbers of services operating in Leicester city council area and in England are as shown in the following table.

Ownership type	*Leicester city council*	*England*
Charity	3	843
Local authority	11	1,055
National health service	—	193
Other	—	102
Private	90	14,052
Voluntary	9	2,168
Total	113	18,413

Note:
Services include care and nursing homes inspected against the national minimum standards for care homes for older people (aged 65 or over) and care homes for younger adults (aged 18-64).
Source:
CQC registration and inspection database. Data as at 8 April 2009.

Information on the total numbers of residents, those aged over 60 and those whose care is privately funded in care homes is not collected centrally.

Information about the number of people aged 65 and over in residential care, funded fully or in part by councils with adult social services responsibilities, is collected by the NHS information centre for health and social care. This information is shown in the following table.

Council supported residents aged 65 and over at 31 March 2008

Area	*Residential care homes*		*Independent nursing homes*
	Council	*Independent*	
England	18,000	106,600	57,700
Leicester city council	300	700	200

Note:
Figures exclude unstaffed homes and adult placements. *Source:*
NHS Information Centre.

Dementia

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support is available from his Department to *(a)* those diagnosed with dementia and *(b)* the carers of those with dementia; whether he plans to increase this support; and if he will make a statement. [275888]

Phil Hope: The Department published the first National Dementia Strategy on 3 February 2009, which will improve services for people with dementia and their carers. The strategy to be implemented over five years will focus on three key areas in relation to dementia services: improved awareness, earlier diagnosis and intervention, and a higher quality of care.

The Carers' Strategy, "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities", published in June 2008, recognises the increasingly important role that carers play in our society and acknowledges that all carers, including carers of those diagnosed with dementia, need more help and support than has been available in the past. The strategy contains a number of commitments including information and advice, new break provision and a recognition that family carers should be involved in decisions about treatment and support.

Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

Departmental ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many and what proportion of computers in his Department malware was detected in 2008. [275393]

Mr. Bradshaw: There were no instances of malware being detected on the Department's computers in 2008.

Health Professions: Registration

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which professional organisations have applied to be registered by the Health Professions Council; when each such application was made; and if he will make a statement. [275598]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following organisations have applied for their professionals to be registered by the Health Professions Council (HPC).

2 April 2003. The Association of Operating Department Practitioners. Operating Department Practitioners. Recommended to the Secretary of State, on the HPC register since 2004;

4 June 2003: The British Psychological Society. Applied Psychologists. Recommended to the Secretary of State, on the HPC register from 1 July 2009;

17 September 2003. The Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain. Clinical Perfusion Scientists. Recommended to the Secretary of State;

8 October 2003. The Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists. Clinical Physiologists. Recommended to the Secretary of State;

2 March 2004. The Association of Dance Movement Therapy. Dance Movement Therapists. Recommended to the Secretary of State;

13 May 2004. The Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists. Clinical Technologists. Recommended to the Secretary of State;

14 September 2004. The Institute of Medical Illustrators. Medical Illustrators. Recommended to the Secretary of State;

13 September 2005. The Institute of Maxillofacial Prosthetists and Technologists. Maxillofacial Prosthetists and Technologists. Recommended to the Secretary of State subject to clarifying the education routes to registration and also the nature of the profession's continuing professional development and that they engage in discussions with one of the professions already regulated by the HPC with a view to being regulated under their umbrella;

1 March 2006 and 11 May 2006. The Society of Sports Therapists. Sports Therapists. Recommended to the Secretary of State;

3 July 2008. Society and College of Radiographers. Sonographers. Outstanding, awaiting publication of extending professional regulation working group report; and

11 September 2008. The HPC considered the report of the Department of Health working group on acupuncture, herbal medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and other traditional medicine systems practised in the United Kingdom as if it were a new professions application. Recommended to the Secretary of State.

Hertfordshire Community Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory functions will be undertaken by the arms-length organisation Hertfordshire Community Health Services. [275372]

Phil Hope: Hertfordshire Community Health Services is the provider arm of the West and East and North Hertfordshire primary care trusts (PCTs). Therefore the PCTs retain all the statutory functions of those organisations.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role the Care Quality Commission will play in the regulation of the arms-length organisation Hertfordshire Community Health Services. [275373]

Mr. Bradshaw: All national health service providers of health care, including primary care trusts (PCTs), have been registered with the Care Quality Commission since 1 April 2009 against a single registration requirement relating to the prevention and control of health care acquired infections. From April 2010, NHS providers of regulated activities will be required to register with the Care Quality Commission against a full set of registration requirements. The Care Quality Commission will also assess PCT provider services as part of its organisational assessment of PCTs.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* has been allocated and *(b)* is expected to be spent on renaming (i) West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust and (ii) East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust. [275374]

Phil Hope: Allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs) and it is their responsibility to ensure that those allocations are used to commission services to meet the needs of the communities that they serve while at the same time giving value for money. The East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that the cost implications for renaming West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCT will be very limited and restricted largely to the production of new name badges for staff. There are no immediate plans to replace any premises signage. The SHA also reports that there will be little or no cost to making the name change in other areas such as email signatures, websites and stationery reprints, the latter only taking place as stationery stocks diminish.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Hertfordshire community health service. [275551]

Phil Hope: The Care Quality Commission will continue to assess the provider services of primary care trusts (PCTs) as part of their assessment of PCTs. The Healthcare Commission's annual health check ratings for West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCT is shown in the following table.

	West Hertfordshire PCT	*East and North Hertfordshire PCT*
2006-07		
Quality of service	Weak	Weak
Use of resources	Weak	Weak
2007-08		
Quality of service	Fair	Fair
Use of resources	Fair	Fair

Hospitals: ICT

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial implications for the NHS are of BT not installing core IT systems at *(a)* all major hospital trusts in London and *(b)* all major hospital trusts in Birmingham. [275707]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* In London, four acute trusts, Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, Queen Mary's Sidcup, Barts and the London, and the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trusts are already live with the Cerner Millennium system supplied by the local service provider, BT.

BT is not responsible for the implementation of systems in Birmingham.

While the scale of the challenge in implementing new IT systems into acute trusts must not be underestimated, and initial experience with the new systems in London was not without difficulties, significant progress has since been made.

Information about the local financial and resource impact on national health service organisations resulting from implementation of, or failure to implement, computer systems is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Under the national programme for information technology central contracts, suppliers are only paid when systems have been successfully deployed and are working satisfactorily. The cost of failure is therefore met by the supplier rather than the taxpayer.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of prisoners with a diagnosed mental health disorder; what percentage of prisoners who *(a)* had a diagnosed mental health disorder prior to conviction and *(b)* have been diagnosed with schizophrenia; and what proportion of prisoners diagnosed with (i) schizophrenia and (ii) another mental health disorder had been convicted of an offence involving violence. [274625]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected by the Department.

On 30 April 2009, Lord Bradley published his review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. The "Bradley report" found that too many people pass through the criminal justice system without their mental health needs or learning disabilities being recognised. This means that their specific needs are not met and too often this leads to a cycle of re-offending.

The prevalence among suspects and offenders, of mental disorders, learning disabilities, and drug and alcohol problems is very high. About 20 per cent. will either currently be in contact with, or have a history of psychiatric treatment.

The Government published their response to the recommendations alongside Lord Bradley's report. The report has been welcomed by Ministers across Government who recognise the need for reform in this area and the necessity for more joined up services to strengthen capacity and take forward this work.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to scrutinise the performance of Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust in dealing with complaints; and if he will make a statement. [274917]

Mr. Bradshaw: The primary care trust (PCT) monitors performance and scrutinises complaints through the Commissioning Quality Review Committee meetings. The complaints report is presented at the PCTs Quality Scrutiny Committee, which looks at the response rates, key themes and any trends. This is then reported through the Governance Group meetings at the PCT. The PCT reports complaints at its monthly trust board as part of the performance report. As a result of the situation in Mid Staffordshire, the PCT offered to advocate on behalf of patients and will continue to offer this service.

More generally, the Department has reformed and strengthened the national health service complaints system from 1 April this year. This sets the expectation that hospitals need to do better at resolving complaints at the local level and, importantly, take appropriate action in the light of the outcome of a complaint.

Information on complaints is already available from the Care Quality Commission, the ombudsman and the Information Centre, but we will now require hospitals to publish annually the number of complaints they receive, and how many were successfully resolved locally. We will also discuss with the health ombudsman publishing the number of complaints from each trust referred to and upheld by her. All this information will also be placed on the NHS Choices website allowing easier comparisons between hospitals.

A written ministerial statement was issued on 30 April 2009 setting out the Government response to the reports on care at Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust submitted by Professor Sir George Alberti and Dr. David Colin-Thome.

In line with the recommendations in Dr. David Colin-Thome's report, officials will undertake an assessment of the new complaints system in due course.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance his Department has issued to Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust on the exercise of the statutory powers of the trust's governors; and if he will make a statement. [274919]

Mr. Bradshaw: The statutory powers of an NHS Foundation Trust's board of governors are set out in the National Health Service Act 2006 (c41) Schedule 7 —"Constitution of public benefit corporations".

In general, the governors of a foundation trust are expected to represent the interests of the membership, and to act as a bridge between the Board of Directors and the membership. Governors must act in the best interest of the trust, and hold the board of directors to account for the performance of the trust. This includes reviewing the annual report and accounts. The governors have a legal duty to appoint the non-executive directors and chair of the trust, and are responsible for appointing the external auditors.

It is for the governors of an NHS Foundation Trust, acting on behalf of the trust's membership, to consider whether and when to act in accordance with their legal powers. The Secretary of State does not have a power of direction. NHS Foundation Trusts were established to increase the level of local accountability and the Department has not issued any guidance to Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust on the exercise of the statutory powers of the trust's governors.

A written ministerial statement on Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust was issued on 30 April 2009 in response to the reports of the independent reviews undertaken by Professor Sir George Alberti and Dr. David Colin-Thome.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements there are on NHS Foundation Trusts to publish details of the salaries and remuneration packages offered to their chief executives and senior managers; and if he will make a statement. [276039]

Mr. Bradshaw: The independent regulator (Monitor) requires foundation trusts to produce annual reports including annual accounts. These include details of salaries and remuneration packages of chief executives and senior managers. Copies of these documents are placed in the House of Commons Library. As a public benefit corporation, NHS Foundation Trusts have a duty to make this published data available to any person who requests it.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to amend the law to increase levels of protection for whistleblowers in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [274916]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have already introduced legislation to protect whistleblowers. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) gives the full protection of the law to national health service staff who blow the whistle. The Department has made it clear that every NHS trust must have in place local policies and procedures that comply with the Act. The Government expect a climate of openness and dialogue in the NHS that encourages staff to feel able to raise concerns about health care matters sensibly and responsibly without fear of victimisation. The NHS constitution published on 21 January 2009, also sets out how staff should have "protection from detriment in employment and the right not to be unfairly dismissed for 'whistleblowing' or reporting wrongdoing in the workplace."

We have taken out a contract with the charity "Public Concern at Work" to provide a helpline that is manned by lawyers with expertise on whistleblowing law who can provide confidential advice and support to NHS staff.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many and what proportion of computers in NHS hospitals malware was detected in 2008. [275400]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* prescriptions and *(b)* in-patient prescriptions were issued for each (i) benzodiazepine and (ii) Z tranquilliser in (A) 2007 and (B) the last quarter of 2008. [274692]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not held centrally for the number of prescription items issued, only for prescription items dispensed. Similarly, information on the number of in-patient prescriptions is not held in the format requested.

The following table provides prescriptions for Benzodiazepine items, dispensed in the community, in England, and written in the United Kingdom, for 2007 and 2008, by quarters (Q1-Q4), in thousands.

Benzodiazepines items

Thousand

	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Full year*
2007					
Alprazolam	—	—	—	<0.1	<0.1
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	69.9	68.4	68.0	66.3	272.6
Clobazam	35.3	36.4	37.4	38.9	147.9
Clonazepam	113.6	116.5	119.0	125.0	474.1
Diazepam	1,160.4	1,169.8	1,192.2	1,200.1	4,722.5
Flurazepam Hydrochloride	—	—	—	—	—
Loprazolam Mesilate	27.9	26.8	26.5	26.9	108.1
Lorazepam	215.0	218.0	221.9	226.9	881.8
Lormetazepam	32.6	30.4	28.3	27.8	119.1
Midazolam	—	—	0.2	1.6	1.9
Midazolam Hydrochloride	11.1	12.1	12.5	13.5	49.2
Midazolam Maleate	0.7	1.0	1.8	0.8	4.3
Nitrazepam	318.6	311.8	308.0	311.5	1,249.9
Oxazepam	47.6	47.2	46.9	47.1	188.8
Temazepam	829.5	803.9	892.8	818.6	3,254.8

Benzodiazepines items

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Thousand Full year
2008					
Alprazolam	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	64.8	64.6	65.9	63.9	259.2
Clobazam	37.9	39.3	40.6	42.3	160.1
Clonazepam	123.8	126.4	132.5	136.1	519.0
Diazepam	1,178.1	1,201.5	1,236.8	1,246.8	4,863.1
Flurazepam Hydrochloride	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Loprazolam Mesilate	26.4	26.0	25.8	26.0	104.2
Lorazepam	219.2	221.6	225.8	232.0	898.6
Lormetazepam	23.1	23.4	22.3	23.2	92.0
Midazolam	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.2	2.6
Midazolam Hydrochloride	13.2	14.3	13.0	16.3	58.9
Midazolam Maleate	0.7	0.7	1.5	2.3	5.2
Nitrazepam	296.3	292.4	290.2	293.9	1,172.8
Oxazepam	44.9	45.0	44.9	45.3	180.0
Temazepam	792.2	770.7	772.2	787.1	3,122.2

Notes:
1. Where there were fewer than 50 prescriptions dispensed this is indicated by "<0.1".
2. "..." indicates that there were no prescriptions dispensed in the time period.
3. Aggregated figures may not match full-year volumes due to rounding.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

The following table provides prescriptions for "Z" tranquilliser items, dispensed in the community, in England, and written in the UK, for 2007 and 2008, by quarters (Q1-Q4), in thousands.

"Z" tranquillisers items

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Thousand Full year
2007					
Zaleplon	8.5	7.7	7.8	7.8	31.9
Zolpidem Tartrate	172.5	168.2	170.5	175.5	686.6
Zopiclone	1,097.1	1,073.1	1,094.3	1,150.4	4,414.9
2008					
Zaleplon	7.5	7.0	7.1	7.4	29.0
Zolpidem Tartrate	173.3	169.9	173.0	179.5	695.8
Zopiclone	1,151.2	1,136.0	1,172.4	1,232.1	4,691.7

Note:
Aggregated figures may not match full-year volumes due to rounding.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of introducing specialist tranquilliser withdrawal clinics. [274693]

Dawn Primarolo: The provision of treatments/services that reflect local needs and priorities is a matter for local decision.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which members of the Commission on Human Medicines provide scientific advice on tranquillisers to his Department. [274966]

Dawn Primarolo: The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) provides its advice to the Secretary of State as a collective body and not through individual experts.

Membership of the CHM and the expert advisory groups is available on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Committees/Medicinesadvisorybodies/CommissiononHumanMedicines/Members/index.htm

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential permanent effects on health of long-term tranquilliser use in the last 10 years; and what assessment he has made of the conclusions of such research. [276015]

Dawn Primarolo: Neither the Department's National Institute for Health Research nor the Medical Research Council has funded research into the permanent effects on health of long-term tranquilliser use. Both organisations welcome applications for support for research into any aspect of human health. Applications are judged in open competition with other demands on funding, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) which colleges will receive funds from the £300 million allocated to Building Colleges for the Future in the 2009 Budget; [274038]

(2) how many projects will receive funds from the £300 million allocated to Building Colleges for the Future in the 2009 Budget. [274039]

Mr. Simon: Budget 2009 announced that an additional £300 million of capital funding will be made available in the current spending round and will allow a limited number of projects to start within this spending review period. Capital investment between 2007-08 and 2010-11

will total £2.6 billion on top of the £2 billion invested between 1997-98 and 2007-08. It is not possible to say the exact number of, or the names of the specific projects, that will be funded as the selection of projects will be based on objective criteria that the LSC is developing in consultation with the sector. The LSC plan to confirm which projects will be taken forward during this spending review period at the beginning of the summer.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2009 of the panel of college principals established to discuss prioritisation of further education capital funding. [274234]

Mr. Simon: The minutes of this meeting were published on the Learning and Skills Council's website on 30 April, at:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-Minutes_capital_reference_group_29_april_2009.pdf

I will ensure copies of the minutes are placed in the House Libraries.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what responsibilities the National Measurement Office has for enforcement of the provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [276167]

Mr. Lammy: The National Measurement Office has no responsibilities for the enforcement of the provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. The Regulations themselves are the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government and enforcement is a matter for local authorities with trading standards functions.

Like any other part of government the Office is responsible for complying with the regulations in respect of its own building.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding has been allocated by his Department to cover the start-up costs of each further education college which received approval in principle for capital development from the Learning and Skills Council. [276280]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much of the £1.2 billion funding available for new further education capital programmes in 2009-2014 he estimates will be allocated for outstanding costs of existing capital programmes. [276281]

Mr. Simon: Budget 2009 announced that an additional £300 million of capital funding will be made available in the current spending round and will allow a limited number of projects to start within this spending review period. Capital investment between 2007-08 and 2010-11 will total £2.6 billion on top of the £2 billion invested between 1997-98 and 2007-08. It is not possible to say the exact number of, or the names of the specific projects, that will be funded as the selection of projects will be based on objective criteria that the LSC is developing in consultation with the sector. The LSC plan to confirm which projects will be taken forward during this spending review period at the beginning of the summer.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his latest estimate is of the level of non-recoverable costs incurred by further education and other colleges resulting from the reused allocations of capital funding by his Department; and what arrangements he has made to compensate colleges for such costs. [276282]

Mr. Simon: To be clear, the Department has not withdrawn any capital funding. In actual fact, in addition to the already record level of capital funding that we are investing in this spending review period, Budget 2009 announced that an additional £300 million of capital funding will be made available in the current spending round.

Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding each further education college which has not received an approval in detail for capital redevelopment has been guaranteed by the Learning and Skills Council to cover their start-up costs. [276283]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2009, whether Matthew Boulton College in Birmingham has submitted plans to the Learning and Skills Council for developing the campus in the Birmingham, Erdington constituency. [273122]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the effect on Sutton Coldfield and Matthew Boulton colleges arising from the freeze on capital spending on their Erdington campus. [273282]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the Learning and Skills Council and its external property advisers plan to meet representatives of Wycombe and Amersham college. [273431]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people are employed in each office of the *(a)* Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* Higher Education Funding Council for England. [274232]

Mr. Simon: The Higher Education Funding Council for England employs 263 full-time equivalent staff; 259 in Bristol and four in London.

The management of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) estate is a matter for the LSC. As at March 2009 the LSC had 3,046.41 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in post. A breakdown of the number of staff based in each office of the LSC is provided as follows. The total occupancy varies slightly from the FTE figure as the FTE figure incorporates data on part time workers as a proportion of one FTE depending on individual working patterns.

LSC office	*Occupancy*
National Office Coventry—Cheylesmore House	593
Manchester	240
Liverpool	43
Lancashire—Preston	27
Cheshire and Warrington	14
Cumbria	16
Birmingham	228
Stoke on Trent	30
Shropshire	0
Black Country Castlegate	29
Black Country Oldbury	0
Hereford/Worcester	40
Coventry and Warwickshire	27
London—Central	195
London—West	32
London—East	54
London—North	26
London—South	29
Gateshead	165
Billingham—Tees Valley	40
Durham	0
Bradford	165
Sheffield	107
Hull	27
York	27
Cambridge	20
Bedfordshire	55
Suffolk—Ipswich	82
Hertfordshire	32
Essex	27
Norfolk—Norwich	23
Leicester	147
Derbyshire	29
Lincoln	18
Northampton	16
Nottingham	32
Bristol	76
Bournemouth	17
Plymouth Devon and Cornwall	81
Truro—Devon and Cornwall	11
Exeter—Devon and Cornwall	9
Gloucester	14
Taunton—Somerset	18
Swindon	24
Reading	97
East and West Sussex—Brighton	70
Fareham	25
Woking—Surrey	39
Milton Keynes	14
Kent/Medway—West Malling	51
Total	3,208

Space Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress there has been on the British National Space Centre's review of the space licensing regime. [274001]

Mr. Lammy: In recent years a number of changes have been made to improve operation of the space licensing regime. Such changes include:

Extension of the Outer Space Act to Bermuda (2006)

Introduction of improved assessments of collision risk in-orbit and for the satellite's transfer from the launch vehicle to its final working orbit (2006)

Improved guidance and planning information for applicants on BNSC website (2007)

Agreement of the Isle of Man to share contingent liability (2007)

Agreement of Bermuda to share contingency liability (2008)

Measures to enable the introduction of temporary licences for operating spacecraft belonging to others (for maintenance or emergency intervention) (2008)

Students: Low Incomes

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* encourage and *(b)* provide financial support for students from low-income socio-economic backgrounds entering higher education; and if he will make a statement. [275745]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows:

(a) This Government are fully committed to ensuring every young person has a fair chance of attending university. We are making progress with the proportion of young entrants from lower socio economic groups going to university increasing steadily, reaching almost 30 per cent. in 2007. This year we are investing £89 million in the Aimhigher programme which raises the aspirations of young people to progress further and enter HE, and launched Aimhigher Associates across England with 5,500 undergraduates from state schools mentoring 21,000 learners to promote progression to HE from state schools.

As part of the New Opportunities White Paper, we also announced further measures to ensure every young person from a low income background, who could benefit from going to university, is given the opportunity to do so. This includes a group of 11 research intensive universities working together to look at ways to reach out to talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

(b) Around two-thirds of new students are expected to benefit from a non-repayable maintenance grant of up to £2,906 (2009/10 figure).

Students are also able to take out a loan for their living costs. Student loans have a more favourable interest rate compared to commercial loans, and borrowers are not required to make repayments until they are earning over £15,000 a year once they have left university.

Bursaries are an extra source of non-repayable support that universities are required to provide to all students entitled to the full maintenance grant.

Other help is available for students with disabilities, and for students with children or adult dependants. The access to learning fund (available through universities and colleges) provides help for students in hardship who may need extra financial support for their course and to stay in higher education.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many meetings of governing bodies academies have been attended by officials from his Department in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [275094]

Jim Knight: We do not hold this information centrally.

Officials from the Department have regular contact with academies and this often includes attendance at governing body meetings.

Apprentices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average duration of an apprenticeship under the apprenticeship programme for 16 to 18-year-olds. [272679]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Apprenticeship frameworks typically take between one and three years to complete depending on the level and type of framework, the prior attainment and needs of the apprentice. These factors and an individual's speed of learning mean that length of time as an apprentice can vary enormously. Our primary measure of quality is the completion rate which last year was 64 per cent.; up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997, we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the schools built or refurbished under the Building Schools for the Future programme incorporate *(a)* forms of renewable energy generation and *(b)* rainwater harvesting and recycling. [275628]

Jim Knight: The Department does not routinely collect information on the numbers and types of renewable energy systems, rainwater harvesting installations or grey water recovery systems that are included within school projects delivered though the Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF).

Since December 2007 we have required that newly constructed schools within BSF meet challenging targets for reducing carbon emissions. The Department has provided additional funding for more than 200 schools to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures on school sites to enable this requirement to be met.

We will be monitoring carbon emissions for new and refurbished schools as part of post occupancy evaluations to be carried for all BSF schools. Typically these evaluations take place one full calendar year after the school has opened, and so they are only now beginning to take place for schools that have been delivered within BSF.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress has been made in confirming approval for revision to the primary capital programme for schools to 2008-11. [276237]

Jim Knight: We have now completed our assessment of revised or modified primary strategies for change from all of those local authorities required to resubmit following initial assessment last November. All but four

have now been confirmed as fully approved. The remainder have been approved subject to further modification. The relevant local authorities have been notified of the outcome.

Children: Literacy

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department plans to take to publicise the results of the Partnership for Literacy pilot scheme; [276168]

(2) what assessment he has made of the outcome of the Partnership for Literacy pilot scheme; [276169]

(3) what plans are in place to implement the Partnership for Literacy scheme; [276170]

(4) what estimate has been made of the cost of implementing the Partnership for Literacy scheme on a national basis. [276172]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The cost of implementing the Partnership for Literacy scheme nationwide has not been estimated. However, Sir Jim Rose is taking into account the evaluation report of the programme's first two-years, which was published in February, as part of developing recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia. We are looking forward to Sir Jim Rose publishing his recommendations in June.

Children: Mental Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were placed on adult mental health wards in each of the last five years. [275651]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The following table gives figures for the number of bed days for children on child and adolescent mental health wards and for children aged under 16 and 16-17 on adult mental health wards.

	Quarter	*Bed days - under 16s on adult ward*	*Bed days -16/17s on adult ward*	*Bed days - under 18s on CAMHS ward*
2005-06	1	589	10,269	38,761
	2	349	5,958	26,351
	3	880	8,818	40,460
	4	353	4,261	36,039
2006-07	1	75	4,697	34,609
	2	25	4,780	28,171
	3	38	4,679	34,430
	4	53	4,511	39,049
2007-08	1	81	3,954	38,359
	2	112	3,893	37,956
	3	49	4,255	39,630
	4	133	5,028	40,651
2008-09	1	16	3,316	35,431
	2	[1]4	4,024	35,482
	3	0	2,918	40,734

[1] Five bed days were initially reported but one (Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) was a data error.

Notes:

Data on this issue was first collected in 2005-06 but data up until Quarter 3 of 2005-06 is not comparable with the data for Quarter 4 2005-06 onwards as information was collected on a different basis.

Class Sizes: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Tamworth constituency was in each of the last five years. [274136]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: average class size[3], as at January each year, in Tamworth parliamentary constituency

	Primary schools	*Secondary schools*
2004	25.4	20.9
2005	25.7	21.0
2006	25.5	20.3
2007	25.4	20.5
2008	25.4	19.3

[1] Includes middle-schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs and academies.

[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269857]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Property Asset Management Plan was revised in October 2008.

The Department's Business Plan includes challenging efficiency targets to reduce the size and cost of its estate while improving the quality of our working environments. Both of these objectives are addressed in DCSF's Property Asset Management Plan.

DCSF has already made significant progress in efficiency and effectiveness as shown in "Improving the Efficiency of Central Government's use of office property" released by the NAO recently.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275208]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I can confirm that the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor did not make any interest payments to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three financial years from 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which services his Department and its predecessors have outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274453]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since April 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor has not outsourced any services. All services currently outsourced went through the process prior to this date.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273746]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Expenditure by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessors on furniture in each of the last five years is shown as follows:

	Total cost (£)
2004/05	524,490
2005/06	315,124
2006/07	123,703
2007/08	1,297,092
2008-09	1,228,197

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274511]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of expenditure on conferences incurred by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in the last five years are as follows:

	£
2008-09	978,338
2007-08	692,232
2006-07	1,284,335
2005-06	945,416
2004-05	1,082,099

DCSF is unable to separately identify the costs for conference services and banqueting services as such expenditure is recorded under the general heading of 'Conference Costs' on the Department's financial system.

DCSF was established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. The expenditure recorded also relates to that of its predecessor Department, the Department for Education and Skills.

Departmental Press Releases

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which media organisations his Department sends press releases. [272610]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's press releases are sent to all organisations representing national and regional TV, radio and newspapers, and a range of other media companies. All press releases are also posted on the Department's website. A list of all of the organisations will be placed in the House Libraries.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to table 8.3 of his Department's annual report 2008, pages 88-9, Detailed breakdown of expenditure by function within departmental expenditure limit, 2002-03 to 2010-11, which individual programmes and corresponding allocations are aggregated as other miscellaneous programmes for 2010-11; which grants and corresponding allocations are aggregated as other standards funds for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2010-11; and which grants and corresponding allocations are aggregated within area-based grants for 2010-11. [271731]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's grants and programmes aggregated as within other miscellaneous programmes for 2010-11 are provided in Table 1:

Table 1: Departmental report allocation—2010-11

Schools:	*£ million*
Music and Dance	37
Redundancy Costs	12
TDA	593
NCSL	84
Partnership for Schools	1
Teachers TV	9
National Strategies	473
Total	1,209

The Department's grants and programmes aggregated as within Other standards funds for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2010-11 are provided in Table 2:

Table 2: Departmental report allocation—2007-08 to 2010-11

£ million

Other Standards Fund	2007-08	2010-11
Schools Development Grant	1,898	2,133
Local Area Agreement Grant	166	—
Total	2,064	2,133

The Department's grants and programmes aggregated as within area based grants for 2010-11 are provided in Table 3:

Table 3: Departmental area based grants figures—2010-11

DCSF grants to local authorities	£ million
Connexions	467
Extended Schools - Start Up	71
School Development Grant (LA retained element)	168
Children's Fund	132
Positive Activities for Young People	95
Care Matters	55
Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	30
Primary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	30
Teenage Pregnancy	28
School Improvement Partners	24
Extended Rights for Free Travel	29
Children's Social Care Workforce	18
School Intervention	15
Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding	15
Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination	14
Education Health Partnerships	13
Child Death Review Processes	8
Youth Substance Misuse	7
School Travel Advisers	7
Choice Advisers	6
Youth Taskforce	4
General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School	4
Designated Teacher Funding	3
Child Trust Fund	1
Total area based grants	1,242

The total in this table contains figures that have been updated since the publication of the 2008 Departmental Report.

Departmental Publications

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on placing supplements in *(a)* Children and Young People Now magazine and *(b)* Community Care magazine in the last 12 months. [274264]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 1 May 2008, the Department has placed two items in Community Care magazine, at a cost of £6,228, and two in Children and Young People Now magazine, costing £27,861.

Head Teachers: Retirement

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of head teachers in post in 2009 who will have retired by *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020; and if he will make a statement. [275037]

Jim Knight: As we said in the Children's Plan, over 60 per cent. of head teachers are now over 50, which means that within the next decade a whole generation of head teachers will be retiring. Of the number of head teachers in post in 2009 we estimate that by 2010, 6 per cent. will have retired, by 2015 this will have risen to 38 per cent. and by 2020 it will have reached 55 per cent.[1] Dealing with the loss of their skills and experience will be a challenge but also an opportunity for innovation and reform. We have invested £30 million in the National College for School Leadership's succession planning strategy which is working with schools, local authorities and faith bodies around the country to develop local solutions to find, develop and keep great head teachers.

[1] The estimates assume that the head teachers in post in 2009 will choose to retire at the current average age of 58 years. This estimate is therefore a predictive trend of retirement as we cannot forecast with certainty the future retirement behaviours of individuals.

History: Primary Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve the teaching of *(a)* history and *(b)* British history in primary schools. [274086]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We asked Sir Jim Rose to review the primary curriculum in order to reduce prescription and give schools more time to teach essential knowledge and skills in greater depth. In the revised primary curriculum, it is proposed that, from 2011, schools will be required to teach children the broad chronology of major events in the UK, from ancient civilisations to present day. At least two key periods of history that were significant to the locality and the UK must be studied in depth. A consultation on these proposals will run until 24 July.

More specifically on support for teachers, the Training and Development Agency (TDA) has supported History initial teacher training (ITT) by providing access to specialist subject knowledge for ITT tutors and mentors. This is delivered via the History subject resource network, led by the Historical Association. In 2008 TDA also funded the Historical Association to develop subject specific online CPD opportunities. The e-CPD modules offer a package of support and a programme of professional development activity for history tutors and teachers undertaking subject development or improvement projects in their own schools.

International Baccalaureate

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils at *(a)* maintained schools, *(b)* sixth form colleges, *(c)* independent schools and *(d)* comprehensive schools were entered for the International Baccalaureate examination in each of the last five years. [262264]

Jim Knight: The information is provided in the following table. Data were not collected prior to 2005/06 and so the information is available only for the past three years.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Maintained schools	607	755	726
Comprehensive	365	510	452
Independent	922	1,152	1,313
Sixth form college	55	112	176
Other FE college	206	242	270
Total	1,790	2,261	2,485

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).
2. 'Maintained schools' include comprehensive, selective, modern, PRUs and hospital schools.

Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

Primary Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of primary school places required for the academic years *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [273857]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Local authorities are responsible for planning the creation of new school places and are under a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available to meet local needs. The Department allocates basic need funding to enable local authorities to provide the additional places needed in response to a growth in pupil numbers. For funding the additional school places the Department relies on authorities' own estimates of future primary and secondary pupil numbers, which they provide to the Department annually through the Surplus Places Survey. At January 2008 there were 3.823 million pupils in primary schools in England and local authorities estimated the primary school population would increase by around 2.5 per cent. over the following four academic years as follows:

	LA estimated number of primary pupils (million)	Annual increase (percentage)
2008-09	3.833	+0.26
2009-10	3.847	+0.37
2010-11	3.875	+0.73
2011-12	3.919	+1.14

Source:
Surplus Places Survey 2008

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local authority will require temporary accommodation to be constructed in order to provide additional state sector primary school places in the academic year *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [273858]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold estimates of the amount of temporary accommodation that may be required by schools.

Local authorities are responsible for planning the creation of new school places and are under a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available to meet local needs. Through good asset management processes, they are encouraged to plan for future accommodation requirements.

Temporary accommodation is appropriate where there is too little time to construct permanent accommodation, or where the need is likely to be short term. In such circumstances, modern, high-quality temporary buildings provide a good environment for teaching and learning. Where they are new or relocated, they are required to meet building environmental standards similar to those which apply to permanent buildings.

Pupils: Obesity

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to tackle childhood obesity; what proportion of school-age children he estimates are *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese; and if he will make a statement. [269297]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the year since the £372 million "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a Cross Government Strategy for England" was published there has been substantial progress. The "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On" annual report was published last month, which sets out in detail our progress to date and also the areas we need to focus on over the next year. A copy of the report is available on the DCSF and Department of Health websites.

The two main sources of data on childhood obesity are the Health Survey for England (HSE) and National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). In 2008, the HSE data showed that the estimated prevalence of overweight among 2 to 15-year-olds was 14.0 per cent. and the prevalence of obesity was 16.5 per cent. The 2007/8 NCMP results showed that in reception year 13.0 per cent. of children were overweight and 9.6 per cent. were obese and that in Year 6 14.3 per cent. of children were overweight and 18.3 per cent. were obese.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued on the education of highly obese children in each of the last three years. [274590]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's strategy for addressing overweight and obesity is set out in "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England" and in the recent progress report "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On". The latter report sets out how we can continue our drive to combat obesity by helping people to make healthier choices, creating an environment that promotes healthy weight, providing quality services that identify, advise, refer and treat those at risk, and strengthening the delivery system. The initial focus of the strategy is on children.

The most recent data from the National Child Measurement Programme for 2007/08 and from the Health Survey for England for 2007 suggests that the trend in obesity prevalence may have begun to flatten out over the last two to three years. The Cross-Government Obesity Unit provides primary care trusts and schools with annual guidance on the National Child Measurement Programme which includes information on sending the results from the programme back to parents.

There is no evidence that there are large numbers of children who need special arrangements for their education on the grounds that they are obese, and the Department has not issued guidance on the specific topic of education of obese children. If school nurses or other health professionals are concerned about a child's health because of his or her apparent weight status they should take action according to standard local care pathways. However, children with health problems related to obesity may need support at school in managing these conditions, and for these pupils schools should have policies in place on the management of pupils' medicines and on supporting pupils with medical needs. The Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health have published joint guidance, "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings", to help schools and their employers develop such policies.

There may be a small number of children whose weight gives rise to mobility problems and who might also meet the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 definition of a disabled person. Guidance has been issued to schools and local authorities on their responsibilities under the Act: this and can be found at

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/disability/disabilityandthedda/

Schools

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* class size, *(b)* number and percentage of pupils with special educational needs, *(c)* free school meal entitlement percentage, *(d)* suspension rate, *(e)* exclusion rate, *(f)* expenditure per pupil, *(g)* truancy rate and *(h)* punctuality rate was in (i) schools in England and (ii) each national challenge school in each seaside town in the latest period for which information is available. [257334]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* To provide all of the requested information for England and each national challenge school in each seaside town would incur disproportionate cost.

Information on special needs, free school meal eligibility and expenditure per pupil for each national challenge school in each seaside town has been placed in the House Libraries.

The latest available published information on average class sizes, which includes information for local authorities, is published as SFR 09/2008 "Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008" which can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

The latest available published information on pupils with special educational needs, which includes information for local authorities, is published as SFR 15/2008 "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008" which can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

The latest available published information on the number and percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals, which includes information for local authorities, is published as SFR 09/2008 "Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008" which can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

The latest available published information about permanent and fixed period exclusions, which includes information for local authorities, is published as SFR 14/2008 "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07" which can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

Information is collected on unauthorised absence. Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy. Information collected by the Department on absence is a more comprehensive measure of children's missed schooling.

The Department's focus is on reducing all forms of absence, not just a small subset. The issue is not whether the pupil had permission to be absent; it is how much absence the pupil has.

The absence SFR provides information on absence, which includes authorised and unauthorised absence, and highlights the numbers of pupils who are persistent absentees missing 20 per cent. or more of their schooling, whether with permission or not.

The latest available published information on absence, which includes information for local authorities, is published as SFR 03/2009 "Pupil Absence in Schools in England, including Pupil Characteristics: 2007/08" at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000832/index.shtml

Schools: Playing Fields

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to retain for community sport and leisure use school playing fields which are surplus to requirements. [274243]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: When we consulted on the effects of the disposal of school playing fields, local authorities and schools expressed concerns about the financial implications of maintaining school playing fields that were genuinely surplus to requirements. The Department does, however, encourage schools and local authorities to consider arrangements whereby such playing fields could be maintained by other local organisations and managed to benefit their local communities. When considering any application to dispose of school playing fields, the views of any authorised community users of the land are fully taken into account.

Schools: Training

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the amount of time provided by schools for staff training in new technologies and initiatives. [274704]

Jim Knight: Decisions about the appropriate amount of time allocated for training individual members of school staff, including training in new technologies and initiatives, are made at school level. For teachers these decisions will be taken in the context of the revised performance management arrangements we introduced in September 2007. In many schools similar arrangements have been introduced for all school staff.

The Department works to support the professional development of school staff and recently, for example, made provision during the 2007/08 academic year for schools to reduce their school sessions from 190 to 189 days to provide additional opportunities for staff training on the secondary curriculum changes. On 30 April, we announced that similar provision would be made for primary schools in 2010 to provide training to staff in advance of a new primary curriculum being introduced from 2011. A comprehensive package of guidance and support for schools to aid introduction of a new primary curriculum will be available from January 2010.

In addition, the Department is working with the QCA and BECTA to consider what additional support teachers will need to meet the raised expectations of children's ICT capabilities, and the use of technology to enrich learning across the curriculum, as set out in the final report of Jim Rose's review of the primary curriculum.

Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* ineligible for free school meals took GCSEs in (i) science, (ii) science and additional science and (iii) separate science subjects in 2008. [262486]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of pupils at the end of KS4 who attempted the following science subjects in 2008 by free school meals eligibility.

	FSM	*Non-FSM*
Physics	2,100	50,600
Chemistry	2,100	51,000
Biological sciences	2,700	55,700
Core science	56,100	409,600
Core and additional science	31,800	299,100

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were eligible for free school meals had statements of special educational needs in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [264874]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* Pupil level data has only been collected since 2002.

The earliest and latest available data has been placed in the House Libraries.

Data for further years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to increase the number of school-based teacher training mentors; and if he will make a statement. [275035]

Jim Knight: Between 2001 and 2009 the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) has supported a significant number of initiatives to increase both the number and quality of school based mentors in initial teacher training (ITT) and in continuing professional development. Since 2001 the number of trainee teachers has risen from 27,000 to over 36,000 this year. In order to ensure that all trainees have a well trained mentor in their placement schools the TDA has invested in significant programmes:

2002 to 2006—the National Partnership Project (over £20 million over the lifetime of the project)—a wide-ranging programme of support for mentor training, including sharing of best practice; direct funding for higher education institution mentor training with schools and support for the building of regional sharing of mentors and training between ITT providers.

2006 to 2009—Partnership development schools (over £6 million)—worked with over 600 schools on national priority areas focusing on mentoring on a local level.

From 2009—Beyond Partnership—the TDA is opening out a consultation process with the ITT sector to explore best use of the investment made and how further support can be developed and delivered.

Evidence of Ofsted inspections and feedback from ITT providers, schools and regional field-forces indicates that this investment has had a significant impact ensuring that all trainees receive high quality training during their school experience, including the support of a well-trained mentor.

In response to the recommendations made in Lord Sainsbury's report "The Race to the Top", the TDA has put into place an Early Career Mentoring project for science and mathematics teachers. This project is a two-year evaluative pilot, being delivered by the Learning and Skills Network that will provide face-to-face, telephone and e-mentoring for 600 (rising to 800 in the second year) science and mathematics trainee teachers, newly qualified teachers and teachers in their second year of teaching. The programme will start in September 2009.

The Professional Standards for Teachers also make clear that being a coach and mentor are key aspects of teacher professional development, and this is referenced more strongly as the individual progresses up the career ladder. The Government are committed to the introduction of the Masters in Teaching and Learning programme from 2009/10, an initiative that will establish teaching as a masters-level profession. A key element of that will include the identification and training of in-school coaches.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 715W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional monetary value of such provision was in 2008-09. [271927]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department provides a small office, with furniture, for the exclusive use of the trade unions on each of our four sites. This can be used for confidential phone calls and meetings with individual union members. Other facilities, such as IT and photocopying facilities, are provided on a shared basis, similar to that provided to our other staff.

The notional cost apportioned to the office space provided is as follows:

Site	*Cost per annum (£)*
Sheffield	11,030
London	23,800
Runcorn	3,170
Darlington	2,770
Total	40,770

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have pupil populations in which more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35, *(h)* 40, *(i)* 45 and *(j)* 50 per cent. of pupils are persistent absentees (i) overall and (ii) in year (A) nine, (B) 10 and (C) 11. [262478]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of schools by percentage of persistent absentees[4], 2007/08

	Number of schools			
Percentage of persistent absentees[5]	*Overall*	*Year 9*	*Year 10*	*Year 11*
More than 5%	3,348	1,825	2,453	2,881
More than 10%	788	635	1,011	1,612
More than 15%	332	319	459	730
More than 20%	182	191	251	392
More than 25%	127	131	175	231
More than 30%	95	106	143	181
More than 35%	71	80	112	140
More than 40%	43	49	88	114
More than 45%	27	39	73	105
More than 50%	19	24	45	75

[1] Includes maintained secondary, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Includes schools with at least one enrolment aged between five and 15.
[4] Persistent absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.
[5] Number of persistent absentees as a percentage of total enrolments.
Source:
School Census

The information is a variation of table 4.4 in SFR03/2009, which was reissued with revised row delimiters on 21 April 2009. However, the above information is taken from a dataset which contains a minor amendment and is now being used for all pupil absence analysis.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the rate of truancy. [273090]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's strategy on school attendance aims to reduce all forms of absence, not merely absence which schools do not authorise (which includes truancy). Our particular focus is on individual pupils who are persistent absentees, who miss 20 per cent. or more of their schooling, whether with permission or not.

This year the Department is working closely through the National Strategies with 42 local authorities with high levels of persistent absence. The National Strategies are providing intensive support and challenge to minimise absence, particularly in 360 secondary schools in those authorities with high persistent absence. A further 102 local authorities with lower rates of persistent absence are receiving support to reduce persistent absence in 795 secondary schools with high levels of persistent absence.

Our work on reducing absence, and persistent absence, has been successful. Overall absence rates in 2007-08 were 6.29 per cent., down from 7.41 per cent. in 1996-97, equivalent to some 70,000 more pupils in school every day.

The total number of persistent absentees in 2007-08 was 233,000, down from 273,000 in 2006-07, a reduction of 14.5 per cent.

Truancy: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days of unauthorised absence were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [274134]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is not available in the form requested. The available information on the number of days of unauthorised absence in Staffordshire local authority for the last five years is shown in the table. To provide pupil absence data at constituency level would incur disproportionate cost.

Absence data is normally reported in terms of sessions. There are two sessions per day.

Primary and secondary schools[1, 2], number of days of unauthorised absence 2003/04 to 2007/08, Staffordshire local authority

	Primary[1]	*Secondary[1, 2]*
2007/08	16,880	69,690
2006/07	17,900	64,380
2005/06	*[3]17,300*	57,780
2004/05	*[3]15,050*	*[3]52,260*
2003/04	*[3]15,900*	*[3]53,740*

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Figures in italics have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from School Census returns.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Absence in School Survey and School Census[3]

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Security

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether *(a)* Mr. Derek Draper and *(b)* Mr. Charlie Whelan has a security pass for 10 Downing Street. [274985]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minister gave to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 182W.

12 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to the public purse was of establishing the new open plan office in 12 Downing Street. [272016]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to his question on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1131W.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what budget the Cabinet Office has set for the "real help now" website for 2009-10. [269896]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 355W.

Childbirth: Migration

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 956-7W, on child birth, what forecast he has made of the number of births there would be if *(a)* net migration were six per cent. lower than the principal projection, *(b)* migration equalled emigration and *(c)* net migration were 60,000 in each year to 2031. [276294]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question, pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009 (Official Report, columns 956-7W) on child birth, regarding what forecast the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of births there would be if (a) net migration were six per cent lower than the principal projection (b) migration equalled emigration and (c) if net migration was 60,000 in each of the years to 2031 [276294].

Migration assumptions for national population projections are conventionally expressed in terms of net migration (immigration less emigration). The 2006-based principal (or central) projection assumed a long-term annual net inflow to the UK of +190,000 persons a year. The attached table shows the projected number of births in the UK for each year from mid-2008 to mid-2031 according to this 2006-based principal national population projection which is included for the sake of completeness.

The 2006-based 'zero migration' variant projection makes the same assumptions about future fertility and mortality as the principal projection, but assumes that immigration will equal emigration, and thus net migration will be zero, at all ages from mid-2006 to the end of the projection period. The projected numbers of births in the UK for each year from mid-2008 to mid-2031 according to this variant projection are also shown in the table.

To fully answer your question, further population projections have been produced by reducing the nominal immigration totals applied in the 2006-based principal projection, but leaving the fertility, mortality and emigration assumptions unchanged. It should be noted that, in practice, this may not be a realistic scenario: if immigration fell permanently to levels well below those experienced in recent years, it is likely that this would, in time, lead to a reduction in the level of emigration as well.

Projected number of births, United Kingdom, 2008 to 2031

2006-based population projections (thousands)

	Published projections		*Special variant projections*[1]	
Year to	*Principal*	*Zero migration variant*	*Net migration 6 per cent. lower than principal*	*Net migration 60,000 a year*
Mid-2008	769	756	769	766
Mid-2009	781	757	780	772
Mid-2010	790	756	789	776
Mid-2011	797	753	795	777
Mid-2012	799	745	798	774
Mid-2013	799	735	797	770
Mid-2014	798	726	796	765
Mid-2015	799	717	796	761
Mid-2016	801	711	798	760
Mid-2017	804	706	800	759
Mid-2018	805	700	801	757
Mid-2019	806	695	802	755
Mid-2020	806	689	801	752
Mid-2021	804	682	799	748
Mid-2022	802	676	797	744
Mid-2023	799	670	793	739
Mid-2024	796	665	791	735
Mid-2025	794	660	788	732
Mid-2026	792	657	786	729
Mid-2027	790	653	784	726
Mid-2028	788	650	783	724
Mid-2029	788	647	782	722
Mid-2030	788	645	781	721
Mid-2031	788	643	782	720

[1] Additional population projections produced using reduced immigration assumptions compared to the principal projection.

Using this method, two further projections have been produced; one assumes annual net migration inflows to the UK six per cent lower than those assumed for the principal projection, whilst the other assumes annual net migration inflows of +60,000 persons a year. The table therefore also shows the projected number of births in the UK for these two additional projections.

Civil Servants: Codes of Practice

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service on changes to the code of conduct for civil servants and political advisers; and if he will make a statement; [271095]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on changes to the code of conduct for civil servants and political advisers; and if he will make a statement. [271096]

Mr. Byrne: Information relating to internal discussion and advice is not normally disclosed.

Damian McBride

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what severance package has been agreed upon in respect of the departure of Damian McBride from the staff of his Department. [271804]

Mr. Byrne: Special advisers are employed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers.

Mr. McBride received no severance package on leaving office.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether the resignation of Damian McBride from his position as a special adviser had immediate effect; [274987]

(2) on what date each Minister in the Cabinet Office was informed of the emails sent by Damian McBride to Derek Draper. [275144]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* Mr McBride resigned with immediate effect.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 379W.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much was spent by the Cabinet Office on furniture for 10 Downing Street in each of the last five years; [273708]

(2) how much was spent by *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agency on furniture in each of the last five years. [273709]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of Cabinet Office. The cost for the Cabinet Office for the financial year 2007-08 was £139,887.

For information for previous years I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 29 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1031W, and on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 295-96W.

Figures for the financial year 2008-09 will be available once the Cabinet Office accounts have been audited.

Departmental Manpower

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who is responsible for the line management of civil servants based in 10 Downing Street; and if he will make a statement. [271098]

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the job title of each employee within 10 Downing Street is; [272014]

(2) what the organisational structure of the posts in 10 Downing Street is. [272012]

Kevin Brennan: Jeremy Heywood is the most senior civil servant in the Prime Minister's Office reporting to the Cabinet Secretary. Further information on the Prime Minister's Office is available in Dodd's publications, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* secondees, *(c)* contractors, *(d)* consultants, *(e)* fee-paid staff, *(f)* agency staff, *(g)* Downing Street Political Office staff and *(h)* other staff worked in 10 Downing Street as at April 2009. [272013]

Kevin Brennan: The total number of staff on the No. 10 payroll as at 1 April 2009 is 200. The staffing and associated costs for the Political Office are met by the Labour party. As has been the case under successive Administrations, marginal costs associated with the Political Office are met from within the overall budget for 10 Downing Street.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which special advisers *(a)* were dismissed, *(b)* resigned, *(c)* were demoted and *(d)* were disciplined in each year since June 2007. [270079]

Mr. Byrne: Special advisers are employed under the terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Since 2003, the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of special advisers by Department. The next list will be published before the summer reeess. Personal information about individual special advisers is not normally disclosed.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the Central Office of Information White Book, March 2009 edition. [271962]

Mr. Byrne: A copy has now been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions the Cabinet Office's head of departmental security has invited the Director-General of the International Bodyguard Association to assess his Department's security in the last three years. [275268]

Kevin Brennan: The Director-General of the International Bodyguard Association was invited, on just one occasion in 2008, to act as an independent reviewer on part of one small ad hoc review being undertaken by the Cabinet Office.

The Department has no on-going business relationship with The Director-General of the International Bodyguard Association.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275352]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office purchases the majority of its office supplies through two contracts for paper and other stationery items which include a wide range of recycled products. Between May 2008 when the current contracts started and March 2009, 84 per cent. of paper and 20 per cent. of other items purchased via these contracts were recycled products.

Honours: Arts

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who appoints the Chair of the Arts and Media Honours Committee. [273104]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 May 2009]:* The independent chairs of the eight honours committees are appointed by the Cabinet Secretary after a process of open advertising, written application and interview.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will instruct Ministers, their Departments and Government agencies to correspond with hon. Members at their House of Commons offices unless they have been instructed otherwise by hon. Members. [272198]

Mr. Byrne: The Cabinet Office guidance 'Handling Correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies' makes clear that replies to letters from hon. Members should be sent to the originating office of the correspondence unless indicated otherwise by the hon. Member concerned. Copies of the guidance are available in the Libraries of the House.

Non-profit Making Associations: Olympic Games 2012

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government are taking to encourage social enterprises to take up commercial opportunities arising out of the London 2012 Olympics. [272602]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) works closely with Social Enterprise London (SEL), as a strategic partner, whose remit is to promote the work of social enterprises to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG), the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), and their 2012 supply chain. Under the project 'Winning with social enterprise', SEL promotes commercial opportunities to social enterprises across the country, encouraging them to bid for the contracts and signposting to relevant sources of business support when necessary.

Funding from the project enables SEL to engage with London 2012 to promote social enterprise as a potential contractor. SEL also delivers regional workshops about 2012 commercial opportunities to social enterprises across England. The workshops provide detailed information about how social enterprises can register on the CompeteFor system, and where they can obtain further support and guidance.

Redundancy

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group in each local authority area in England and Wales were made redundant in each of the last five years. [275266]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women in each age group were made redundant in each local authority in England and Wales in each of the last five years. (275266).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, this source does not support analysis of redundancies at these geographic levels and no alternative source is available.

Unemployment

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in which parliamentary constituencies the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people out of work was greater in the latest month for which figures are available than in the equivalent month of 1997. [275446]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking in which parliamentary constituencies the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people out of work was greater in the latest month for which figures are available than in the equivalent month of 1997.(275446)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics in line with International Labour Market Organisation definitions, for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey.

Unfortunately, due to small sample sizes at this level of geography it is not practicable to produce the requested analyses.

As an alternative, Table 1 shows the Parliamentary Constituencies where the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (Claimant Count), the main unemployment related benefit, was higher in April 2009 compared to April 1997-Table 2 shows the

Parliamentary Constituencies where the proportion of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance was higher in April 2009 compared to April 1997.

A copy of the tables has been placed in the Library of the House.

The definition of the claimant count has not changed since 1997, following the introduction of Jobseeker's Allowance in 1996.

Although not a change to the definition of the claimant count, the introduction of the system of joint claims for Jobseeker's Allowance from 2001 has meant that both members of certain couples are now required to claim JSA jointly and both are required to look for work. This change has led to certain claims being counted as two separate claims when they would previously have appeared as one claim. Without this change, the current level of the unemployment claimant count would be about 9,000 lower than it currently is.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 19 May 2009

OLYMPICS

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* her, *(b)* her special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in the Government Olympic Executive in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268257]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 549-50W.

Figures for the Government Olympic Executive were included in the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe) on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1377W.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) her, (B) her special advisers and (C) civil servants in the Government Olympic Executive in each year since its establishment. [268235]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, (Tom Watson) on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 550W.

Figures for the Government Olympic Executive were included in the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Sport on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1377W.

Government Olympic Executive: Manpower

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people have been employed in the Government Olympic Executive in each year since 2005. [275951]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 May 2009]*: The number of staff (full-time equivalents (FTEs)) working in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) and its predecessor, the Olympic Games Unit, has risen over the last five years as follows.

End of financial year	*Number of FTEs*
2004-05	[1]90
2005-06	[1]90
2006-07	44.3
2007-08	62.3
2008-09	89.4

[1] Approximately

This planned increase in staffing (a) reflects the wider role the GOE has taken on during this period—GOE is now the only organisation overseeing the entire Olympic project, integrating the work of multiple delivery bodies, and ensuring the Games is delivered within the £9.3 billion public sector funding provision; (b) is a planned response to the expected growth in work to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees, as 2012 approaches; and (c) is consistent with GOE's staffing and resource plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11, which was agreed early in 2008.

GOE headcount is expected to peak this summer at about 95 FTE, as a result of the recent recruitment of interim resources to focus on an integrated delivery assurance project across the programme, after which it is expected to reduce towards 90 FTE. There are no plans for GOE headcount to grow further before 2012.

Government Olympic Executive: Operating Costs

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the operational costs of the Government Olympic Executive have been in each year since 2005. [275953]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 May 2009]*: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is responsible for overseeing the successful delivery of the entire London 2012 Games Programme, integrating the work of multiple delivery bodies, safeguarding and maximising the value of the Government's investment ensuring the Games is delivered within the £9.3 billion public sector funding provision, and maximising the benefits of the Games for the whole of the UK.

The expenditure of the GOE, part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and its predecessor, the Olympic Games Unit, for the completed financial years since 2004-05 are as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	0.6
2005-06	1.4
2006-07	3.1
2007-08	5.4
2008-09 (provisional outturn)	7.9

This increase in expenditure over the period:

(a) reflects the increased role that the GOE has taken on during this period;

(b) is a planned response to the expected growth in work to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees, to spread the benefits of the Games across the UK as 2012 approaches; and

(c) is consistent with GOE's staffing and resource plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11, agreed in early 2008.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) for what reasons the construction of the *(a)* North Olympic site and *(b)* Olympic site has been delayed; and what steps she is taking to reduce that delay; [273127]

(2) if she will make an assessment of the potential for further delays to the *(a)* construction of the North Olympic site and *(b)* landscaping deadlines for growing the plants required for the Olympic site; [273128]

(3) what recent representations she has received from the landscaping and horticultural firms contracted to provide services on the Olympic site on the effects on them of changes in the timetable for construction of the Olympic site; [273129]

(4) what assessment she has made of the likely effects on horticultural companies providing plants for the *(a)* North Olympic and *(b)* Olympic site of delays to construction at the Olympic site. [273135]

Tessa Jowell: The overall construction programme for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games continues on track, with no delay in the construction of the Olympic Park or in the construction of the parklands in the North of the Park.

The delivery contractor, Bam Nuttall, is currently procuring a number of specialist subcontractors and suppliers through a series of packages and is on track to start delivery of the Northern parklands later this spring. The contracts for the hard and soft landscaping of the South Park are due for award later in 2009, with on-site work to start in early 2010. These are in line with planned dates for such contracts to be let.

Further to those packages already at an advanced stage of procurement, there will be many more opportunities for landscaping and horticultural suppliers registered on the London 2012 CompeteFor website in areas, including the supply of thousands of younger woodland trees, shrubs and other plants scheduled for planting nearer games-time.

In consultation with landscaping industry expertise (including the British Association of Landscape Industries, the Horticultural Trades Association, Greening the Games—an industry-wide lobby group—as well as expert industry contractors and suppliers) the Olympic Delivery Authority has given careful consideration to the number of growing seasons available for the plant stock proposed across the park and is confident that there is sufficient time to ensure an excellent games-time park.

Olympic Games 2012: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) has made since December 2008 of the economic effects of the London 2012 Olympics on *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend West constituency; what recent discussions she had with the GOE on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [275613]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive has not made a specific assessment of the economic effects of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics on Essex or Southend West. However, the East of England stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the London 2012 games. These include businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and improved skills and employment opportunities. The games, including pre-games training camps, will enable regions to attract inward investment and showcase themselves on an international stage, and UK Trade and Investment are helping businesses to use 2012 as a springboard for export.

We are already seeing progress in a lot of these areas, for example 23 of the Olympic Delivery Authority's suppliers are businesses registered in Essex. Additionally, 66 facilities from the region, including Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre in Essex are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many suppliers based in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea and *(b)* Essex have been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority to date; and if she will make a statement. [275614]

Tessa Jowell: To the end of March 2009, 23 suppliers registered in Essex had been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). Currently no businesses registered in Southend-on-Sea are directly supplying the ODA.

The East of England Development Agency recently organised a programme of events for the chairman of the ODA, John Armitt on 18 March, which included a visit to a major business conference at Colchester FC and meetings with companies in the region that have won work supplying the ODA. Details of this and similar events, and information on CompeteFor (the electronic brokerage service for buyers and suppliers) are provided in the business section of the London 2012 website:

www.london2012.com

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the results. [270614]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has one building with an air conditioning system with greater than 250 kW of output. This air conditioning system will need to be inspected in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2007/991). The inspection will be completed shortly.

Copies of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by my Department and its agencies have been deposited in the House Library.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274555]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport spent the following amounts on building maintenance in each of the last five years:

	£
2008-09	312,682.94
2007-08	495,747.01
2006-07	598,354.08
2005-06	512,458.73
2004-05	433,051.28

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275258]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

Total pay bill was £24,534,890, of which 2.37 per cent. was used for non-consolidated in year and year end performance payments. These non-consolidated payments were paid to staff in the year 2008-09 for the performance year 2007-08. For the senior civil service (SCS), the size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot is based on recommendations by the independent senior salaries review body.

2008-09	*All staff*	*Senior civil service (SCS) staff*
Number of year end non-consolidated performance payments	221	25
Median (£)	1,200	7,000
Total cost (£)	499,647	254,750

Note:
The permanent secretary also received a non-consolidated performance payment in 2008.

Royal Parks

Total pay bill was £4,458,312, of which 0.75 per cent. was used for non-consolidated in year and year end performance payments. These non-consolidated payments were paid to staff in the year 2008-09 for the performance year 2007-08.

2008-09	*All staff*	*Senior civil service (SCS) staff*
Number of year end non-consolidated performance payments	19	[1]
Median (£)	510	[1]
Total cost (£)	25,160	[1]

[1] This information is not available due to the small number of SCS staff involved (less than five).

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency the Royal Parks make non consolidated payments to their staff to reward highly successful performance over a whole year (e.g. targets exceeded). All non-consolidated payments are funded within existing pay controls, have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and as such do not add to future pay bill costs. This year the Government have responded positively to current economic conditions by freezing the size of the SCS 'pot' set aside for non-consolidated payments.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274546]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department spent the following on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation:

	£
2004-05	11,596.60
2005-06	28,451.75
2006-07	25,255.14
2007-08	30,355.26
2008-09	31,757.97

Mass Media: Ownership

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will commission research on the effects on the UK media industry of foreign ownership of UK media outlets. [276203]

Andy Burnham: There are no plans to commission research into the effects of foreign ownership on UK media outlets. However, Ofcom are currently conducting a review of the media ownership regime. Although this will not specifically consider foreign ownership, it will take a view on the ownership structures as a whole. This review will conclude later this year.

Sports: Disabled

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking in respect of the provision of sports facilities for disabled children. [264792]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 1 April 2009]:* Through the Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP), 250 multi-sports clubs were established in 2008-09, providing opportunities for young disabled people to take part in sport. The strategy aims to deliver a total of 450 new multi-sport clubs by 2011.

In addition, the Government have built on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, setting down a clear framework that requires sports clubs to make reasonable adjustments to the way their services provide for disabled people and where necessary adjust the physical features of their premises.

Swimming

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the expected contribution of swimming to Olympics legacy targets for participation in sports. [275813]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has commissioned the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) to deliver outcomes against Grow, Sustain and Excel. The ASA has been offered an award of £20,875,000 over the period 2009 to 2013 to drive these outcomes. Sport England is awaiting acceptance of this offer.

The ASA award agreement specifies that the ASA will grow the sport by 270,000 additional participants swimming for 30 minutes once a week (increasing the total of one x 30 16+ swimmers to 3,514,400) by 2012-13. It should be noted that Sport England's overall growth target is to get 1 million more people playing sport for 30 minutes three times a week by 2012-13. Recognising that most people who achieve three x 30 minutes per week do so through a combination of different sports,

the individual National Governing Bodies have therefore been given goals expressed in terms of one x 30 minutes per week that will aggregate together.

In addition, the ASA award agreement sets out that the ASA will increase the total number of young people (five to 19) participating in swimming clubs from 136,327 to 159,483 by 2012-13. These figures for young people refer to the number of young people participating in swimming clubs, not the number of young people participating in swimming more generally.

Television: Standards

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations he has received on television programmes with content claimed to be unsuitable for viewing being broadcast before the watershed in each of the last five years. [276249]

Andy Burnham: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Approximately 50 per cent. of the correspondence received by the Department on broadcasting is about content of which quite a large proportion is about the watershed.

VisitEngland: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much VisitEngland has budgeted to spend on administration costs in 2009-10. [276450]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have confirmed that the total VisitEngland grant in aid budget for 2009-10, including VisitEngland's proportion of shared costs with VisitBritain, is £11,724,000.

Of that budget VisitEngland has allocated £2,874,000 to administration and property costs.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275195]

Ann McKechin: None.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274536]

Ann McKechin: Information is not available in the form requested. Details on the cost of compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation are not recorded in a way that such information could be disaggregated.

WALES

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275245]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office paid £6,000 in end-of-year performance bonuses to five staff. There were no payments to senior civil service staff.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275979]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has adopted a project management approach to various tasks, such as implementation of the Government of Wales Act 2006, but not commissioned any external reviews or taskforces.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many actions under employment law were brought against his Department in each of the last three years, broken down by category of action; and how many were contested by the Department at an employment tribunal. [275623]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Only one action under employment law has been brought against the Wales Office in the last three years to which a response has only recently been filed and therefore the matter has not yet progressed to employment tribunal stage.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272139]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information is provided in the following table:

Organisational unit	*Number of buildings*	*Number of inspections*
DFT Central		
London HQ	2	1
Air Accidents Investigation Branch	0	n/a

Organisational unit	Number of buildings	Number of inspections
Rail Accident Investigation Branch	0	n/a
Executive Agency		
Driving Standards Agency[2]	1	1
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency[1]	6	6
Government Car and Despatch Agency	0	n/a
Highways Agency	7	28
Maritime and Coastguard Agency[2]	2	2
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	0	n/a
Vehicle Certification Agency	0	n/a

[1] New chillers installed on certain units and due for installation at others. Inspection to be arranged.
[2] Display Energy Certificate and Inspection Report placed in the Library.
[3] The reports are currently with Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) for agreement due to the limited availability of assessors.

The Department for Transport will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by the Department and its agencies.

Driving: Licensing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to reissue official photocard driving licences with all prior entitlements without the need for the applicant to provide proof of completion for each individual class; and if he will make a statement. [275497]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no requirement for applicants to routinely provide proof of their driver entitlement when applying for a replacement photocard licence. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) will renew photocard licences that reflect the driving entitlement recorded on the applicant's driving record. On receipt of a new licence, drivers are asked to check the accuracy of the document and raise with DVLA any concerns they have. If the customer claims an entitlement that is not shown on the licence, DVLA will investigate.

Local Transport Act 2008

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish guidance on the quality contracts provided for by the Local Transport Act 2008; and if he will make a statement. [276445]

Paul Clark: We will be consulting on draft regulations and guidance before the summer recess, with a view to bringing provisions into force by the end of the year.

Newhaven Marine Railway Station

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason a closure process for Newhaven Marine station has not been initiated. [276325]

Paul Clark: Newhaven Marine station is owned by Network Rail and as such it is up to them to review options for the future of the station. If Network Rail were to conclude they wished to close this station they would be required to follow the procedures under the Railways Act 2005, including a full consultation.

Private Roads: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of miles of unadopted road in Lancashire. [276308]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport holds no record of the number of miles of unadopted roads in Lancashire. The last recorded figures based on a 1972 survey, suggested there were around 40,000 such roads within the UK. We have no information on how many of these roads have since been adopted or how many new unadopted roads have been created.

Railways: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the cost of running the rail network was met from passenger revenue in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2003; and what proportion he estimates will be so met in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2013. [276326]

Paul Clark: Details of historic passenger revenue and Government support are set out in "National Rail Trends" which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation.

An estimate of passenger revenue alongside planned Government support for the railway up until 2013-14 is set out in the White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" which was published in July 2007. Copies of both documents are available in the Libraries of the House.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the bond deposited by a train operating company awarded a rail franchise is fully forfeit in the event of a unilateral termination of the franchise by that company. [276327]

Paul Clark: In the event that a franchise is terminated the performance bond would be called. However, the bond can only be used to cover costs. As such if there are any funds left after those costs have been discharged we would have to repay the balance.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings his Department has had with each rail franchise company in each month of 2009; and what requests from such companies to modify franchise agreements he has received in that period. [276448]

Paul Clark: Meetings are held regularly with each train operating company (TOC) during the normal course of business. These include regular formal franchise performance meetings with each TOC every four weeks. There are also a range of meetings about various projects

which impact on operations and working level meetings around specific aspects of franchise delivery.

During the normal course of business TOCs may request contract changes and derogations to the franchise agreement. However, the Department for Transport does not accept changes which amount to renegotiating terms of the franchise agreements.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on rail freight transport; and what steps he is taking to increase the proportion of freight transported by rail. [275517]

Paul Clark: There have been no discussions on rail freight transport with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

To encourage the transfer of freight from road to rail we have recently announced additional funding of £67 million to the Sustainable Distribution Fund. £61 million of this is allocated to the capital budget from which the Freight Facilities Grant allocations are made.

In the last two years the Government have announced record levels of rail freight investment to support continued growth including £200 million towards the development of a Strategic Freight Network and over £150 million of funding towards the provision of infrastructure enhancement for freight through the Productivity Transport Innovation Fund.

Railways: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the effect of the removal of South West Trains services west of Exeter from December 2009 on the economy. [276178]

Paul Clark: Analysis conducted as part of the franchise replacement process recommended the withdrawal of the four South Western services per weekday west of Exeter. From a National Rail perspective loss of revenue is minimal as there are alternative services operated by other train operators, with clear national financial benefit for this change of circa £5.5 million net present value (NPV) over the franchise. This will enable an hourly service to be introduced between Exeter and London Waterloo, a long held local and regional authority ambition, which will have a significant benefit to the Devon economy.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 488-89W, on roads: accidents, how many of the drivers of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles, *(b)* light goods vehicles and *(c)* cars referred to in the table had (i) foreign and (ii) UK driving licences in (A) 2003, (B) 2004, (C) 2005, (D) 2006 and (E) 2007. [276427]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer my right hon. Friend to my answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1129-30W.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of a carbon reduction fund relating to transport. [274291]

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of the establishment of a carbon reduction fund for transport. [275559]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is currently looking very closely at the best ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport and has received representations from a number of groups advocating a Carbon Reduction Fund.

When making decisions about transport expenditure we aim to do so in a way that delivers across all of our goals as set out in the 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' consultation. In this context we will set out our policies and proposals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport as part of our Carbon Reduction Strategy in the summer.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many violent crimes were committed in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* Belfast in each of the last three years. [276170]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274562]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows expenditure on building maintenance by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies, in each of the last five years:

	Building maintenance (£000)
2004-05	2,727
2005-06	2,234
2006-07	2,600
2007-08	1,792
2008-09	2,760

Building maintenance includes work where the primary aim is routine repair and/or replacement of existing facilities.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274472]

Paul Goggins: In 2005, two mobiles belonging to civil servants were lost and one belonging to a special adviser was stolen. In 2006 two mobiles belonging to civil servants were lost. In 2007 six mobiles phones belonging to civil servants were lost.

In 2005, one BlackBerry belonging to a special adviser was stolen. No other phones or BlackBerrys were lost by Ministers, special advisers or civil servants.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274574]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not record details of expenditure under the descriptions requested therefore it would be possible to extract these costs only at disproportionate cost.

The Northern Ireland Office has a policy on the use of recycled paper for printing and copying which states that 100 per cent. recycled paper is mandatory.

In addition the Northern Ireland Office has a policy of recycling used ink cartridges.

Drugs: Seizures

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many drug seizures were carried out by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each policing district in each of the last five years. [276224]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the number of *(a)* styrofoam and *(b)* plastic food service items used in House of Commons cafeterias in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [275498]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons catering service estimates that it has used the following number of *(a)* Styrofoam and *(b)* plastic food service items in its cafeterias in each of 12 accounting periods from April 2008-March 2009:

		(b) Plastic food service items		
	(a) Styrofoam	*(i) food containers*	*(ii) cutlery*	*(iii) lids for drinks cups*
Period 1	0	8,450	22,200	6,000
Period 2	0	15,650	25,000	14,000
Period 3	67,150	31,849	108,100	46,000
Period 4	0	15,950	28,200	19,000
Period 5	11,000	11,050	51,000	23,000
Period 6	0	10,500	40,100	11,000
Period 7	0	2,550	16,000	7,000
Period 8	0	32,911	102,400	53,000
Period 9	0	12,750	39,100	34,000
Period 10	0	10,550	37,000	25,000
Period 11	0	13,550	58,000	50,000
Period 12	0	22,950	66,000	49,000
Total 2008-09	78,150	188,710	593,100	337,000

Styrofoam items were being phased out of use during 2008-09 but were re-introduced briefly during two periods due to technical issues with the replacement products. An estimated 300,000 cardboard cups were used during the year in replacement of Styrofoam cups previously used.

Work has also been done to reduce the environmental impact of plastic food service items used by the catering department. Over 40 per cent. of the plastic food containers listed above were made from recycled plastics and the total number of plastic food containers used in 2008-09 was reduced by an estimated 140,000 by switching to bio-degradable containers manufactured from a by-product of the sugar refining industry. The House of Commons catering service is continuing to test more environmentally-friendly disposable products as new products become available and hopes to reduce even further the remaining usage of oil-based plastics.

ICT

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much has been spent on the provision of air conditioning to cool servers on the House of Commons estate in each of the last three years. [275511]

Nick Harvey: The expenditure associated with the provision of cooling to server rooms has three main components: capital expenditure associated with new equipment, electricity costs, and maintenance costs.

Capital expenditure

The parliamentary estates directorate (PED) has not carried out any new projects providing cooling for server rooms during the last three years. During this period however PED has provided additional cooling to rooms which house communications and computer equipment associated with servers. The overall cost of this work is estimated to have been approximately £25,000 per year.

Electrical energy consumption

Due to fluctuating energy prices and the complexities of the individual buildings' tariff structures it is not possible to estimate accurately the cost of energy used by all of the cooling equipment associated with server rooms. However PED has used an estimated average electrical energy cost of 10p/kWh to calculate an approximate cost associated with electrical energy of £124,000 per year.

Cost of maintenance

PED maintenance engineers routinely carry out cyclical maintenance works and attend call outs involving the repair and replacement of defective cooling plant. The cost of these works is included within general maintenance contracts which cover large items of cooling plant,

some of which serve more than one location. This makes it difficult to accurately assess the cost of maintenance directly attributable to server room cooling alone. PED however estimate the cost of maintenance tasks associated with server cooling equipment to be approximately £9,000 per year[1].

The total estimated annual cost is £158,000.

[1] Estimated using BSRIA rules of thumb BG14/2003 table 7.

Members: Data Protection

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what legal responsibilities the House authorities have under the Data Protection Act 1998 to keep hon. Members' *(a)* home addresses, *(b)* ex-directory telephone numbers, *(c)* bank account details and *(d)* other personal information secure; and if he will make a statement. [276387]

Nick Harvey: The House's Corporate Officer is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998 in respect of personal data held by the House Departments. The Corporate Officer, like any other data controller, must comply with the 1998 Act in respect of any personal data processed by the House Departments.

Ventilation

Mr. Burstow: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the House of Commons Commission's most recent assessment is of the efficiency of the ventilation systems in each building in the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate. [275509]

Nick Harvey: The efficiency of the numerous ventilation systems across the parliamentary estate is not monitored.

However, the associated plant and controls are continually monitored via the various building management systems installed to confirm correct and continued operation.

In addition, the effectiveness of the ventilation systems is maintained against the installed design parameters by regular maintenance.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to afford special protection from military action for Afghan citizens, with particular reference to women and children, as required under international humanitarian law. [275860]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: UK personnel operate at all times under rules of engagement which ensure that force is used in accordance with international humanitarian law. This ensures that civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure are minimised. This does not, however, restrict the inherent right of self defence that enables our military personnel to defend themselves. The rules of engagement are reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain effective and compliant with international law.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has considered a timetable for the withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan; whether he has had recent discussions on the matter with other states involved in military operations; and if he will make a statement. [276330]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK's strategy for Afghanistan is long-term and based on a comprehensive approach to security, political, social and economic development.

At the recent NATO summit in April 2009, allies reiterated their commitment to support Afghanistan in building security, both in the short term during the crucial election period and in the long term; when the focus of this support will shift further towards strengthening Afghan security forces to take responsibility themselves.

We have always made clear that we would keep the commitment of UK forces under review.

Armed Forces Day

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to mark Armed Forces Day on 27 June 2009 through national events; and if he will make a statement. [276499]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The aim of armed forces day is to honour Britain's armed forces, past, present and future and it is hoped that all former and currently serving members of the forces will fully embrace the concept of the day. The Historic Dockyard Chatham will host the inaugural armed forces day national event on Saturday 27 June 2009. The event will include a parade through Chatham town centre, a drumhead service, flypasts of military aircraft and a range of other activities in the Dockyard throughout the day.

To enable communities across the UK to be involved in this inaugural year, we have also invited all local authorities to fly a flag for our armed forces. Over 460 of the 480 borough, city, district and county councils across the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man that have been invited to participate in the fly the flag event have registered to take part, as have the Governors in Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. The intention is that this ceremony will be repeated across the country at 1030 on Monday 22 June, synchronised with similar ceremonies where we have forces deployed overseas, and that the flags will be flown until after armed forces day itself.

The MOD is also supporting over 80 community events across the country with major events in every region. A full list of events can be found at the armed forces day website at the following link:

www.armedforcesday.org.uk

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last met the chairman of each war pension committee. [274685]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* My predecessor, the former Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans, my hon. Friend the Member for Halton (Derek Twigg) attended the War Pensions Committee Chairmen's conference in September 2008.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of each war pension committee in the last year for which figures are available. [274686]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Members of War Pensions Committees are not paid but the overall total for their travel expenses and loss of earnings for financial year 2008-09 can be identified and was approximately £50,500.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases were handled by each war pension committee in the last year for which figures are available. [274687]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* During 2008 there were 28 cases where a panel of War Pension Committee members heard individual complaints about the way the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency had dealt with cases. These figures are broken down by WPC panel and provided in the following table.

WPC panel	*Number of cases*
South East	4
Eastern	4
South West	4
North West	7
Northern Ireland	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	2
London	2
West Midlands	1

In addition, individual WPC members are frequently contacted directly by individuals with concerns or inquiries about war pension related matters and are responded to directly. These numbers however, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274302]

Mr. Hutton: The following table provided details the numbers of staff who were dismissed from the Department in each calendar year since 2004.

	Dismissals relating to under-performance	*Total of all dismissals*
2004[1]	12	189
2005	9	206
2006	12	183
2007	9	155
2008	2	127
2009[2]	1	56

[1] Records for industrial employees were migrated onto the HR system in March 2004. Any dismissals involving industrial staff prior to this date are not included.
[2] Numbers for 2009 are up to and including 30 April.

The figures exclude the MOD's trading fund agencies: ABRO, the Defence Aviation Repair Agency, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Met Office and UK Hydrographic Office, as this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [274949]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274488]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to publicise availability of the veterans' badge. [276501]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All those leaving the Services now receive their HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge in their service leavers' pack. For others, the details of eligibility and the application process are advertised on the Veterans-UK website found at the following link:

http://www.veterans-uk.info/new_badge/badge.html.

The badge has also been publicised through Government and ex-Service organisation publications and through local and national press articles featuring coverage of badge presentation ceremonies held by Ministers, MPs and external organisations. We are also promoting badge presentations as part of the armed forces day events to be held on 27 June this year. The position is kept under review, including the consideration of opportunities to provide further publicity for the scheme.

Military Bases: Aviation

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the effect of levels of handling equipment at military airports on the capacity to fulfil airbridge schedules. [276236]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The amount of handling equipment available for loading and unloading transport aircraft at military airports is sufficient to fulfil the operational airbridge schedule.

Pakistan: Deployment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military personnel are serving in Pakistan; and in what capacities such personnel are serving. [276264]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that there are currently 29 UK military personnel based in Pakistan undertaking a variety of roles, including training, liaison and diplomatic duties.

The number of military personnel based in Pakistan varies from time to time. This can be for a variety of reasons, including revised tasking and changes to previous roles.

Rosyth Dockyard

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for Rosyth dockyard to undertake refitting of Royal Navy *(a)* frigates and *(b)* other vessels after 2012. [276287]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The locations for future upkeep packages beyond 2012 have yet to be determined as part of the developing Surface Ship Support (SSS) Alliance.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Research

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided for farming-related research and development in real terms in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [274951]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* DEFRA's spend profile on farming-related research and development is shown in the following table. Figures are not available prior to the formation of DEFRA in 2001.

£ million

	Total DEFRA R and D spend on sustainable farming and food	*Total DEFRA R and D spend on animal health and welfare*	*Total DEFRA agricultural R and D spend*
2001-02	41	41	82
2002-03	40	41	81
2003-04	39	36	75
2004-05	39	40	79
2005-06	38	40	78
2006-07	33	41	75
2007-08	30	40	70
2008-09	27	36	63

Note:
This information was taken from DEFRA's science information system database.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department offers to owners of domestic animals on the risk of tuberculosis transmission from wildlife in areas where there is a high incidence of bovine tuberculosis. [275803]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA advises owners of domestic animals (i.e. cats and dogs) who suspect their animals may have been infected or may be at risk of becoming infected with TB to contact their private veterinary surgeon for advice in the first instance.

Compost

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Waste and Resources Action Programme plans to end its support for subsidised composting bins for householders; on what date such support will end; and what estimate has been made of the average change in the cost to a householder of a compost bin as a result. [275761]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP's) home composting campaign used central funding to subsidise the sale of home composting bins for five years. In that time two million home compost bins were sold and 40 per cent. of households with gardens are now home composting. It is estimated that, as a result of WRAP'S programme, more than 300,000 tonnes of organic waste have been diverted from the waste stream each year, resulting in significant waste management and disposal cost savings.

Having demonstrated the benefits of promoting home composting, it was appropriate for local authorities to decide how home composting should fit within their waste strategies and for them to take responsibility for deciding on a suitable level of subsidy. WRAP stopped subsidising compost bins at the end of March 2009. As a result, the full cost of bins to consumers rose by an average of £8, except where the local authority decided to offer its own subsidy. A total of 37 waste disposal authorities are currently offering varying degrees of subsidy. WRAP will continue to promote home composting to the public and provide practical advice and support as part of a wider waste reduction programme.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274215]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA provides a 'shared' IT training service to a number of agencies and the spending of DEFRA will include the spending on IT training by those agencies on a consolidated accounting basis.

IT training for DEFRA can be separated into two distinct areas:

1. Regular spending on IT training for staff. This includes such activities as maintaining hardware and training new staff members in the use of the DEFRA systems. The overall spending on IT during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is contained in the 'Resource Accounts'. The annual reports are available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/finance/resource-accounts

and are in the Library. Providing more specific information on regular IT spend in earlier years can be done only at disproportionate cost.

2. Project spending on IT training for staff. IT projects that will require trained staff will include the cost of that training within their budgets. Information on the costs of training alone or on the costs of IT work between 2004-08 are available only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) with reference to the answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 467W, and to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 754W, on waste management: domestic wastes, if he will publish an updated table of the local authorities which operate residual household waste collections with a frequency of less than once a week, including those operating or planning to operate pilot schemes with that frequency; [270136]

(2) which local authorities operate residual household waste collections with a frequency of less than once a week, including those operating or planning to operate pilot schemes with that frequency. [275780]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action programme has provided the following list of local authorities operating residual household waste collections with a frequency of less than once a week, including pilot schemes. This represents WRAP'S best understanding but the situation can change rapidly.

Local authority

Alnwick District Council
Amber Valley Borough Council
Ashfield District Council
Babergh District Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council
Blackpool Borough Council
Blyth Valley Borough Council
Boston Borough Council
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Braintree District Council
Breckland District Council
Bridgnorth District Council
Bristol City Council
Broadland District Council
Bromsgrove District Council
Broxtowe Borough Council
Burnley Borough Council
Cambridge City Council
Cannock Chase District Council
Canterbury City Council
Carlisle City Council
Castle Morpeth Borough Council
Charnwood Borough Council
Cherwell District Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Chichester District Council
Chiltern District Council
Chorley Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council
Corby Borough Council
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Dacorum Borough Council
Daventry District Council
Derby City Council
Derwentside District Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
East Hampshire District Council
East Lindsey District Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council
Epping Forest District Council
Erewash Borough Council
Exeter City Council
Fareham Borough Council
Fenland District Council
Forest Heath District Council
Fylde Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Guildford Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
Harborough District Council
Harrow London Borough Council
Hart District Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Hastings Borough Council
Havant Borough Council
Hertsmere Borough Council
High Peak Borough Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Hyndburn Borough Council
Ipswich Borough Council
Kennet District Council
Kettering Borough Council
Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Lancaster City Council
Lichfield District Council
Lincoln City Council
London Borough of Bexley
Macclesfield Borough Council
Mansfield District Council
Melton Borough Council
Mendip District Council
Mid Bedfordshire District Council
Mid Devon District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Mid Sussex District Council
Mole Valley District Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
North Devon District Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
North Hertfordshire District Council
North Kesteven District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Norfolk District Council
North Shropshire District Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
Northampton Borough Council
Norwich City Council

Nottingham City Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Oswestry Borough Council
Oxford City Council
Pendle Borough Council
Peterborough City Council
Preston City Council
Purbeck District Council
Reading Borough Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Redditch Borough Council
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Rochford District Council
Rossendale Borough Council
Rother District Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Rushmoor Borough Council
Ryedale District Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Shepway District Council
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council
South Bedfordshire District Council
South Buckinghamshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Derbyshire District Council
South Gloucestershire Council
South Hams District Council
South Kesteven District Council
South Lakeland District Council
South Norfolk District Council
South Northamptonshire Council
South Ribble Borough Council
South Shropshire District Council
South Somerset District Council
South Staffordshire District Council
Spelthorne Borough Council
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
Stafford Borough Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Swale Borough Council
Swindon Borough Council
Tamworth Borough Council
Taunton Deane Borough Council
Teignbridge District Council
Telford and Wrekin Borough Council
Test Valley Borough Council
Thanet District Council
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Torbay Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Tynedale District Council
Uttlesford District Council
Vale Royal Borough Council
Wakefield City Council
Wansbeck District Council
Warwick District Council
Waveney District Council
Waverley Borough Council
Wealden District Council
Wellingborough Borough Council
West Lancashire District Council
West Wiltshire District Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Winchester City Council
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Woking Borough Council
Worcester City Council
Wycombe District Council
Wyre Borough Council
Wyre Forest District Council
York City Council

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 679W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, if he will place in the Library a copy of the WR1204 research report on completion. [275776]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the WR1204 research report will be placed in the Library once it is published later this year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 222W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, whether any projects involved helping local authorities with introducing or operating alternate weekly collections. [275783]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA provided funding directly to authorities, through the local authority support unit (LASU), to:

resource technical support for waste compositional analysis;

develop their wastes strategies; and

formulate their procurement and planning approach.

We did not fund any option specifically to deliver any particular collection approach. However, authorities may have explored the options mentioned as part of those available. All LASU case studies are available on the Waste Information Network website.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 841W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, whether *(a)* the Waste Improvement Network and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action programme have made estimates of the average cost per household to local waste collection authorities of domestic waste collection with (i) a weekly and (ii) an alternate weekly frequency. [275856]

Jane Kennedy: Neither the Waste Improvement Network not the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) have made any such estimates.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1007W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, which of the 10 councils awarded beacon status for best practice in waste collection have *(a)* weekly and *(b)* alternate weekly collections. [275858]

Jane Kennedy: Two of the bodies awarded beacon status for waste collection in 2007 are waste partnerships representing a total of 16 authorities. 14 of these have waste collection duties. Therefore, a total of 21 waste collection authorities received beacon status for waste collection. Of these, three now provide weekly collections and 18 provide alternate weekly collections.

Weekly collection

East Cambridgeshire District Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
London Borough of Sutton

Alternate weekly collection

Babergh District Council
London Borough of Bexley
Cambridge City Council
Daventry District Council
East Hampshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Forest Heath District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Ipswich Borough Council
Lichfield District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Peterborough City Council
Preston City Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
Waveney District Council

Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 to take account of the ruling of the Court of Appeal in the case of OSS Group v. the Environment Agency; and if he will make a statement. [276324]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not have any plans to amend the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 in the light of the ruling by the Court of Appeal.

Food Supply

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of progress in the delivery of the Government's commitment to the right to food as a fundamental human right. [275829]

Jane Kennedy: We are currently assessing the UK's contributions to the realisation of a right to food and will shortly be submitting a report to the UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur. The UK Government remain committed to working with international partners to enhance global food security in line with our millennium development goals (MDG), including MDG 1 on hunger, and to the progressive realisation of a right for all to have economic and physical access to safe and nutritious food—a commitment which was recently reaffirmed by G8 Agriculture Ministers in Treviso on 18-20 April.

Geographical Information Systems

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1281-2W, on geographical information systems, whether the cadastral parcels used in implementation of the INSPIRE Directive will include property data held by *(a)* the Land Registry, *(b)* Ordnance Survey and *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency. [275782]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Cadastral parcel datasets[1] held by or on behalf of public authorities will be in scope for implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. However, the implementing rules that will confirm the criteria to assess which datasets meet the definition of cadastral parcels will not be finalised before autumn 2009. Until the criteria have been agreed and assessed it is not possible to state explicitly whether datasets from specific organisations will be in scope.

[1] Areas defined by cadastral registers or equivalent.

Joint Waste Authorities: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much seed-corn funding has been allocated to the first group of joint waste authorities. [275770]

Jane Kennedy: No joint waste authorities have been established.

Rabies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to prevent the importation of rabies into the UK. [275795]

Jane Kennedy: Rabies-susceptible mammals are subject one of three sets of controls in place to prevent the importation of rabies: the Pet Travel scheme, quarantine or rules known as the Balai Directive which deal with the trade movement of certain animals and animal products.

Pets entering the UK under the Pet Travel scheme must meet certain rules, including the need for a rabies vaccination and a blood test. They can only enter the UK on transport routes approved by the Animal Health Agency and all undergo a pre-entry identity and documentary check to ensure that they have met all of the rules of the scheme. If they meet these rules they do not need to enter quarantine on arrival.

Animals subject to UK quarantine laws, for example pets from countries for which the Pet Travel scheme

does not apply or zoo animals, must be issued with a rabies import licence issued by the Animal Health Agency before they can enter the UK. On arrival in the UK, these animals are immediately transported by an approved carrier to quarantine premises where they undergo six months' quarantine. These animals are under the control of authorised quarantines or travelling agents at all times and are subject to regular veterinary inspections.

Rabies-susceptible mammals entering the UK under the Balai Directive must meet very strict pre-entry requirements including stringent bio-security at the premises of origin. They will also require a pre-entry veterinary health inspection and be accompanied by a official veterinary export health certificate.

Recycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relative costs of using (i) landfill, (ii) incineration and (iii) crushing for the purposes of reuse and reclamation in relation to (A) construction and (B) domestic waste; and if he will make a statement. [276516]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA's Waste and Resources Evidence programme has not commissioned any research into the areas mentioned.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated to projects established to increase levels of *(a)* reuse and *(b)* source-separated recycling in the last five years; and whether the number of jobs involved was one of the criteria used in decisions to allocate funds to such projects. [276517]

Jane Kennedy: The Government believe that local authorities are best placed to make decisions for their own communities. How funding is allocated once projects are established is for the local authorities to decide and not within the remit of DEFRA.

Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers his Department plans to provide to local authorities under the provisions of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. [275760]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA currently has no proposals to provide local authorities with additional powers under the provisions of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions (RES) Act 2008.

Reservoirs: Ringmer

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the Site of Special Scientific Interest at Ringmer, East Sussex of a proposed reservoir on an adjacent site; and if he will make a statement. [276309]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The proposed reservoir is subject to the due process of an environmental impact assessment which must consider in detail potential impacts on the site of special scientific interest (Plashett Park Wood). It is too early on in the process to conclude what the impact will be. Scoping of potential impacts has been undertaken along with a detailed baseline environmental survey. Statutory environmental bodies including Natural England are fully engaged in this process.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Natural England on the potential effects on the environment of a reservoir at Ringmer, East Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [276301]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England has expressed concern at the potential for the reservoir to have adverse hydrological impacts on neighbouring site of special scientific interest (SSSI) woodland as well as impacts on the viability of the rare butterfly populations and bats which use the SSSI. Other protected species' interests outside of the SSSI must also be considered (e.g. water voles in local watercourses). Natural England is working with South East Water through the statutory environment impact assessment process to ensure that these risks are properly understood.

Rights of Way: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support his Department is providing to local authorities to increase *(a)* public access to coastal areas and *(b)* cleanliness and quality of beaches in 2009-10. [275812]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The coastal access provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill will be implemented by Natural England (NE) who will enter into agreements with local access authorities in order that they undertake much of the detailed implementation work, where they are willing to do so. Such agreements will include provision for the relevant financial support to enable local access authorities to undertake this work. This cost accounts for part of the £50 million budget over 10 years that NE has provisionally estimated is required for the project. NE will fund the project from the core budget DEFRA provides it with.

Under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a duty to keep their relevant land, including beaches above the high water mark, clear of litter and refuse. The statutory Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse recommends those responsible for beaches regularly monitor them, and develop an appropriate cleansing regime. DEFRA does, however, provide grant funding support through EnCAMS (also known as Keep Britain Tidy) to run the national Quality Coast Award (QCA) and Blue Flag schemes designed to drive up the standards of beaches.

EnCAMS recently announced that a total of 71 Blue Flags and 113 QCAs have been awarded to beaches in recognition of their high quality environments and facilities.

Rural Payments Agency: Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Rural Payments Agency has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [276370]

Jane Kennedy: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) expenditure on hospitality in each of the last five financial years is as follows:

Financial year	Amount spent (£)
2004-05	57,000
2005-06	81,000
2006-07	105,000
2007-08	95,000
2008-09	164,000

[1] This amount is subject to audit by the National Audit Office in relation to the 2008-09 financial year.

Hospitality covers refreshments and working lunches provided for meetings and workshops where the attendees can include visitors to RPA from public bodies and other non public organizations as well as RPA staff.

There is no RPA expenditure on entertainment.

Swine Flu

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will *(a)* commission and *(b)* evaluate research into the implications for animal health of the pathogenesis between species of the H1N1 strain of swine influenza, including transfer from humans to pigs. [276197]

Jane Kennedy: The Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) is in the process of agreeing a programme of work to assess the transmission characteristics of H1N1 in certain animals and associated implications for animal health with the European Commission. It is expected that this will involve researchers from a number of member states. DEFRA is being kept fully informed of the progress of this initiative.

Work has already started at VLA on a research study to determine whether the new H1N1 strain of influenza is transmissible to pigs, and if so, what the main characteristics of such an infection might be.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which countries the import of *(a)* live pigs and *(b)* pork carcasses is prohibited following the identification of swine influenza in pig herds. [276198]

Jane Kennedy: Swine influenza is not a notifiable or statutory disease and it is not listed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). International standards for trade in animals and animal products do not impose any restrictions in respect of swine influenza virus infection for the protection of either animal or human health. Accordingly, the EU does not prohibit the import of live pigs or pig meat as a result of the presence of swine influenza in an approved third country from which they may legally be imported to the EU.

The European Commission's Standing Committee for the Food Chain and Animal Health considers that from the evidence available from the recent outbreak of influenza in a pig farm in Canada restrictions in trade of pigs and their products would not be justified. As the World Health Organisation has made clear, this situation does not pose a food safety risk to consumers. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products is perfectly safe.

We will continue to work with international organisations to understand whether there is any unusual disease in pigs and whether any action to restrict trade would be appropriate.

All animals and meat can only be imported to the European Community from third countries approved as having equivalent health status as member states. They must be accompanied by veterinary certification that must confirm, among other things, that live animals have been examined by an official veterinarian within 24 hours of loading and showed no clinical signs of disease. Meat must have been derived from animals which have been subjected to a veterinary inspection during the 24 hours prior to slaughter.

Animals and meat imported into the European Community from approved third countries must enter at designated Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) where they are also subject to veterinary inspections.

Water Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which water companies are levying new surface water charges on non-domestic customers; and what the timetable is for the introduction of such charges by each company. [275852]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Four of the 10 water and sewerage companies in England and Wales have switched to site area charging for surface water drainage: Northumbrian Water, Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water.

It is for individual companies to propose their schemes of charges, having regard to the relevant guidance, including the timetable for introducing any changes to charges, and for Ofwat to approve them.

Wildlife: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has held with international counterparts on tackling the global illegal trade in wildlife. [275944]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following a meeting with the then United States' Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Claudia McMurray, I wrote to her on 16 January to confirm that our officials would work towards the UK taking over as the chair of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) later this year. In addition the UK remains an active party to the convention on illegal trade in endangered species (CITES).

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether there are plans for further investigation into evidence of caste discrimination in the UK following the informal survey carried out in preparation for the Equality Bill. [276130]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are always willing to consider whether there is a case for legislating to prohibit caste discrimination, but to date insufficient evidence has been presented to indicate that this is a significant problem in the United Kingdom which is why it has not been included in the Equality Bill. However, the Government have agreed to undertake further research shortly into the extent of caste discrimination. As part of this, senior officials from my Department and the Government Equalities Office have already committed to meet a delegation representing organisations with an interest.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 69WS, on asylum support, what estimate she has made of the initial cost of transferring the provision of section 4 support for asylum seekers to a plastic payment card system. [271649]

Mr. Woolas: The costs for the initial implementation and running costs for the first year are estimated at £350,000. There are no immediate financial benefits following the transfer to a card based system but the new system will deliver improved management information which will provide better control over support costs.

Asylum: Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners applied for asylum *(a)* before their conviction and *(b)* following their imprisonment in each of the last 12 months. [275683]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files and cross-referencing these details with records held by the Prison Service which would incur a disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee with all of the most robust and accurate information on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

Community Relations

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the implementation of the revised Contest strategy; and if she will make a statement. [275466]

Mr. Coaker: Home Office officials sent the Equality and Human Rights Commission details of the revised CONTEST strategy when it was launched in March. The Commission will be key stakeholders in the CONTEST Outreach programme that the Home Office is developing to take forward implementation of the strategy.

Criminal Records: EU Nationals

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals have been refused entry to the UK on the basis of previous criminal convictions in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [273620]

Mr. Woolas: From 2006-08, 929 EU nationals were refused entry at the UK border on grounds relating to the public good.

The annual breakdown is as follows:

	Number of EU nationals refused entry to the UK
2006	186
2007	388
2008	355

This includes, but is not limited to those EU nationals refused entry due to criminal convictions. This information could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The data provided are based on locally-collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Departmental Buildings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government house in Pimlico at 62 South Eaton Place became empty. [275863]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure her Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via her Department's website. [274522]

Mr. Woolas: Complaints received by e-mail and post are forwarded to the relevant area of the Home Office or its agencies to be handled. Those who telephone the Home Office to make a complaint are asked to put it in writing to the Direct Communications Unit. At the bottom of every Home Office web page there is a 'Complaints' link, which opens the Complaints webpage with contact details for the Direct Communications Unit.

Departmental ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many and what proportion of computers in her Department malware was detected in 2008. [275390]

Mr. Woolas: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of malicious attacks against their IT systems.

The Home Office complies with Mandatory Requirement 39 of the Security Policy Framework which requires a policy on managing risks posed by all forms of malicious software ('malware').

Departmental Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on minimising the use of paper in her Department. [275508]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office is working to reduce all forms of waste, in line with the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets. Accordingly a wide range of initiatives are currently in place within the Department to minimise the use of paper. Examples include: setting printers to print double sided by default; making some Home Office publications available only online and encouraging staff to avoid printing emails.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department seeks advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with regard to the safety of specific countries in respect of deportation cases. [269749]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency obtains information about specific countries from a wide range of publicly accessible sources including governmental, non-governmental and international organisations and reliable media sources. The UK Border Agency works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that the picture obtained from these sources is an accurate one.

Country plans/information, which are the Government's official assessment of the circumstances in specific countries, are public documents and can be found on the Home Office website.

Dual Nationality

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of the United Kingdom hold dual citizenship; and what the top 10 most common nations of dual citizenship are, ranked in descending order. [276485]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not available. British citizenship can be acquired in a number of ways. For those who acquire that status automatically, by birth or descent, we do not have information about any other nationalities that they might also hold. For those who acquire British citizenship by registration or naturalisation, the UK Border Agency has records of the nationality that was held at the time of the application, but do not have figures as to how many retained another nationality on becoming British.

Emergency Calls: Speech Impaired

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to enable people who are deaf, speech-impaired or otherwise unable to use voice telephony to opt to use a short message text service for 999 or 112 emergency calls. [275435]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* There are currently a number of regional schemes allowing the use of short message text access from mobile telephones for the hearing or speech impaired to the emergency services. Work to develop a national solution is being led by the National 999 Liaison Committee which is chaired by Department of Communities and Local Government. The National Policing Improvement Agency, on behalf of the Police Service, participates in this work alongside the mobile telephony service providers, the other emergency services, British Telecom and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. The group is currently scoping a trial to take place during 2009 to assess the most appropriate technical solution.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* highly-skilled migrants and *(b)* dependants of highly-skilled migrants have been given leave to enter the UK under (i) the highly-skilled migrants programme and (ii) Tier 1 of the points-based system in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [254492]

Mr. Woolas: The number of people given leave to enter *(a)* under the Highly Skilled Migrant programme *(b)* under Tier 1 of the Points Based System, and *(c)* as dependents of the above, in each quarter of 2007 and 2008, is shown in the following table.

	2007				2008			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
HSMP	2,060	2,411	2,639	2,939	3,616	2,661	470	157
Tier 1	0	0	0	0	0	263	2,364	5,166
Total	2,060	2,411	2,637	2,939	3,616	2,926	2,834	5,323
Dependents	1,773	1,161	1,611	1,741	1,883	1,591	1,652	2,746

The data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Entry Clearances: Agriculture

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many temporary visas were issued for migrant agricultural workers in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what estimate she has made of the number of such migrants who have overstayed their visas. [269139]

Mr. Woolas: Work cards allocated to seasonal agricultural workers scheme Operators by UKBA were:

April 2006 to March 2007: 16,404

April 2007 to March 2008: 16,732

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The scheme is restricted to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals only from 1 January 2008. Since 1 January 2007, Bulgarian and Romanian nationals have freedom of movement rights and are not required to leave the UK when their work card expires but must generally obtain further permission if they wish to recommence work.

Entry Clearances: Married People

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what differences exist between her Department's methods of treatment of visa applications from spouses of British passport holders who hold dual nationality with Pakistan and spouses of those who hold only a British passport; and if she will make a statement. [267692]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* There is no difference in treatment of visa applications from spouses of British passport holders who hold dual nationality with Pakistan and spouses of those who only hold a British passport. The requirements for entry as a spouse are set out in Paragraph 281 of the Immigration Rules.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1355W, on immigration controls: overseas students, whether students who pay for their accommodation, including bills, before attending the academic institution will be required to demonstrate they have the required monthly maintenance funds set under the new Tier 4 rules on immigration. [274164]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* Where students have paid for accommodation in advance of applying for a visa, this amount will be deducted from the total amount of funds they will need to demonstrate in order to meet the Tier 4 maintenance requirement. For accommodation, this only applies if the student is staying in university or college arranged accommodation. This information is set out in paragraph 96 of the Tier 4 policy guidance, which is available in the House of Commons Library and has also been published on the UK Border Agency website.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 856W, on immigration controls: educational institutions, what criteria the objective test includes; and how many times an academic institution is required to assess students according to this test during an academic year. [274329]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* The points test, integral to all parts of the Points Based System, is the objective test used by the UK Border Agency to assess applications for leave to enter or remain. The specific criteria that must be met are detailed in the Immigration Rules, following changes contained in the Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 314) laid before the House on 9 March 2009, and which came into force on 31 March 2009.

It is the responsibility of the education provider, as licensed sponsor, to assess their students' progress throughout the duration of their studies. The UK Border Agency does not define the method nor the frequency of such assessments throughout an academic year.

Entry Clearances: Zimbabwe

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review her policy on determining visa applications from Zimbabwean nationals to take account of changes in the political situation in Zimbabwe. [257758]

Mr. Woolas: All applications for UK visas are determined in accordance with the UK's Immigration Rules, regardless of an applicant's nationality. When assessing an application, it is normal to take account of an applicant's individual circumstances and, where relevant, the prevailing economic, political or security situation in their country.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1829W, and 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 856W, on foreign workers, which pages of the copy of the EC Services Offer placed in the Library contain a definition of a temporary worker under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services in the context of admission to the UK. [274432]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* The definition of temporary workers under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services can be found between pages 21 and 41 of the revised EC Services offer, placed in the Library.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nationals of the A8 states have completed a year on the Worker Registration Scheme and are entitled to full access to benefits. [263737]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* Data on the number of nationals of the A8 states that have completed 12 months continuous employment in the UK and have consequently ceased to be subject to the registration requirement are not available. The effect of the registration requirement is to restrict access to tax-funded, income related benefits subject to a habitual residence test, including income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance.

Identity Cards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable has been set for the distribution of identity card readers to *(a)* police stations, *(b)* border entry points, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* job centres. [269932]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is continuing to increase the number of identity cards issued to foreign nationals granted further permission to stay in the country. In time, card readers will be made available so that the cardholder's biometric and biographical features can be checked against the card, although a timetable for their introduction has not been established. At present, cards may currently be verified using the card verification phone line and as the volume of cards in circulation increases other forms of verification will be introduced.

Identity cards issued to British citizens under the Identity Cards Act 2006 will be valid for travel in Europe and so will have the capability for facial image biometrics to be read at border control in the same way as biometric passports. Any wider introduction of readers would be linked to the incremental rollout of the National Identity Service as detailed in the National Identity Service Delivery Update 2009 published on 6 May 2009.

Immigration

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent meetings she has had with the chief executive of the UK Border Agency on backlogs in processing immigration casework. [276374]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency regularly updates the Home Secretary on the progress made by the Agency on processing immigration case work.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision will be made in the case of the hon. Member for Billericay's constituent Mr W. Mlangeni, with reference to the hon. Member's letters of 1 September 2008 and 28 January 2009. [276425]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 2 March 2009 with the latest position on Mr. Mlangeni's case.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there will be a charge for each certificate of acceptance for studies issued under the new Tier 4 immigration rules. [274328]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) Regulations 2009, which came into force on 6 April 2009, make provision for the UK Border Agency to charge £10 for each certificate of sponsorship issued to Tier 4 migrants. The certificate of sponsorship is known as a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies under Tier 4. This fee will apply once the sponsorship management system for Tier 4 sponsors commences its roll-out from autumn 2009.

Internet: Monitoring

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further plans her Department has to monitor internet use and telephone calls. [274070]

Mr. Coaker: There are no plans to amend the legal framework for interception in the UK.

Separately the Government have launched a consultation, "Protecting the Public in a changing Communications Environment". This consultation relates to communications data (information about a communication but not its content) and is seeking the public's view on how to ensure that communications data continue to be retained in and made available lawfully, on a case by case basis, to public authorities.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people arrested *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each police force area in England and Wales had been the subject of a deportation order in each of the last five years; [273531]

(2) how many people subject to a deportation order have been arrested in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [273532]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files and cross-referencing that information with records held by the police, which would incur a disproportionate cost. The UK Border Agency is advised of when a foreign national has been convicted of a crime within the UK in order to take appropriate action, including deportation action. The UK Border Agency will consider deportation action against any foreign national who has been convicted of a crime committed in the UK and meets the relevant criteria.

Those who have a deportation order signed against them are removed from the UK and prevented from re-entering as long as the order is in force. In 2008 the Agency exceeded its Government target by deporting or removing a record 5,395 foreign national criminals. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information on the deportation of foreign national criminals and will continue to do so as required. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

Police: Complaints

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made against the South Yorkshire police force in each of the last five years. [275820]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold the information requested. This is a matter primarily for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in fulfilling its statutory functions under the Police Reform Act 2002. The IPCC will respond to the hon. Member direct.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many officers of each rank in Essex Police have voluntarily ceased employment, excluding redundancy, since March 2008; [275587]

(2) how many officials of each grade have voluntarily ceased employment, other than through redundancy, in Essex Police Authority since June 2007. [275606]

Mr. Coaker: Data for the financial year 2008-09 are unavailable until headline figures are published in July.

The available data for the financial year 2007-08 are given in the table.

Voluntary resignations and transfers (FTE) for Essex police 2007-08

	Transfers	*Voluntary resignations*[1]
ACPO	0	0
Chief Superintendent	1	0
Superintendent	1	0
Chief Inspector	0	0
Inspector	0	2
Sergeant	18	10
Constable	76	61
CSO	0	41
Special Constable	1	63
Police Staff	0	156
Traffic Warden	0	0
Designated officers (s38)	0	5

[1] Including probationers

Note:
Full time equivalent figures provided that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Source:
Data validated with Essex Police Force

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many non-UK nationals in UK prisons she expects to be deported in the next 12 months; [273854]

(2) how many non-UK nationals in UK prisons were deported in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [273855]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has written to the Home Affairs Select Committee on a regular basis in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate in formation on the subject of foreign national prisoners and deportation. She advised the Committee that in 2007 the agency deported or removed a record 4,200 foreign national prisoners, exceeding the Prime Minister's target. In 2008 the UK Border Agency established a new record by deporting or removing 5,395 foreign national prisoners, which was reported in the quarterly asylum and immigration statistics.

Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House. She will continue to update the Committee as required. In its business plan for 2009-10 the UK Border Agency has confirmed that it will continue to deport or remove record numbers of foreign national prisoners.

Repatriation: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what expenditure her Department has incurred on the provision of financial incentives to foreign national prisoners to serve the remainder of their sentence in their country of origin *(a)* since the inception of the scheme and *(b)* in 2008-09; [275520]

(2) how much on average foreign national prisoners received in reintegration support in 2008; [275521]

(3) what expenditure her Department has incurred on reintegration support in each of the last three years; [275522]

(4) how many prisoners at each prison have been offered financial incentives to serve the remainder of their sentence in their country of origin since the inception of that incentive scheme; [275531]

(5) how many prisoners have received reintegration support more than once in the last five years; [275552]

(6) how many foreign national prisoners have been repatriated to their country of origin under the reintegration scheme since the scheme's inception. [276226]

Mr. Woolas: The facilitated returns scheme was launched in October 2006 as an incentive to persuade foreign prisoners to return voluntarily to their own country. The scheme offers a package of reintegration assistance to the individual, however no financial incentives are offered. The only cash the individual receives is the standard £46 discharge grant provided to all prisoners, including British nationals. The level of assistance offered is variable and is dependant upon the individual circumstances of each case. Around half of those who are removed under the provisions of the scheme receive reintegration assistance. There has been only one instance where an individual who has been transferred to a prison within the country of origin has been provided reintegration assistance.

Details of the scheme are available in all UK prisons where foreign national prisoners are serving their sentence. Although they are also verbally advised of the scheme, it is not possible to provide data on the numbers of individuals who have been offered the scheme. It remains open to them to make such an application. Once removed from the UK under the scheme's provisions, they are excluded from re-entering the UK. As such it is only possible to benefit from the scheme once.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has written to the Home Affairs Select Committee on a regular basis in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information on foreign national prisoners and deportation, including the successes seen through the use of the facilitated returns scheme.

In her letter of 23 July 2008 she advised that the scheme, which has generated significant savings and accounted for around 25 per cent. of all foreign prisoner removals in 2007, has resulted in nearly 1,800 foreign prisoners being removed from the UK. In the first year of the scheme (October 2006 to October 2007) the agency spent around £350,000, inclusive of administrative costs. For the same period around 880 removals were made under the scheme which generated considerable savings in detention costs alone.

Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House. The chief executive will continue to write to the Committee with further updates on the scheme and other data on the deportation of foreign national prisoners.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Disciplinary Proceedings

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many disciplinary offences by Serious and Organised Crime Agency staff have been recorded in each month since March 2006. [272739]

Jacqui Smith: The Serious Organised Crime Agency was formed in April 2006. The number of cases since April 2006 in which a disciplinary offence was recorded in a SOCA officer's personnel file are in the following table.

	Number
2006	
May	2
June	4
August	1
September	1
November	2
2007	
January	2
February	1
March	3
April	1
May	1
July	2
August	1
September	2
October	2
November	5
December	3
2008	
January	2
February	1
May	1
June	1
September	1

Note:
Where a month is not listed, no disciplinary findings were made during that month.

Terrorism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars, *(c)* consultation documents and *(d)* other documents she (i) has issued since February 2008 and (ii) plans to issue in the next two years consequent on the provisions of counter-terrorism legislation passed since 1984; and if she will make a statement. [273978]

Mr. Coaker: Since February 2008 the following statutory instruments have been made by the Home Office in relation to the Terrorism Act 2000, the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, the Terrorism Act 2006 and the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008:

The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2008, made on 23 June 2008.

The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2008, made on 17 July 2008.

The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Name Change) Order 2009, made 5 March 2009.

The Terrorism Act 2006 (Pre-charge Detention) (Renewal) Order 2008 made on 24 July 2008.

The Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 (Commencement No. 1) Order 2008, made 23 December 2008.

The Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2009, made 19 January 2009.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Continuance in force of sections 1 to 9) Order 2008, made 3 March 2008.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Continuance in force of sections 1 to 9) Order 2009, made 5 March 2009.

The Terrorism Act 2000 (Code of Practice for Examining Officers) (Revision) Order 2009, made 26 February 2009.

The Home Office plans for future statutory instruments are published quarterly at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/secondary-legislation-list

The only departmental circular published by the Home Office since February 2008 in relation to the above legislation was Home Office Circular 027/2008 which was issued on 2 December 2008 and deals with the authorisation process under the stop and search powers at section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. It is intended that there will be Home Office circulars issued in relation to the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 during the course of 2009.

A formal 12 week consultation was carried out in the summer of 2007 on schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (Code of Practice for Examining Officers). The consultation was published on the Home Office website on 4 June 2007. The Home Office will consult on changes to the various police and criminal evidence codes arising from the provisions in the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 in due course. It is also intended that there will be a consultation on amending the list of pathogens and toxins contained in schedule 5 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 in the next two years.

Information relating to 'other documents' can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether during the recruitment process individuals applying for positions at the UK Border Agency are asked whether they are members of a political party; [252406]

(2) whether individuals applying for positions at the UK Border Agency are asked about membership of a political party during the recruitment process. [250181]

Mr. Woolas: No. Civil servants are required to act impartially and follow the Civil Service Code.

Work Permits

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits the UK Border Agency has issued to software developers from each country of origin in the last six months. [275099]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not centrally recorded.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on implementation of the National Carers Strategy 2008; and if he will make a statement. [275467]

Jonathan Shaw: To support the implementation of National Carers Strategy objectives, Ministers from all the signatory Departments have maintained close working relationships. To support this an inter-ministerial meeting is planned for early June.

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what percentage of cases in which 40 per cent. of a parent's income had been assessed as the liability for child maintenance arrears the Child Support Agency has identified *(a)* delays and *(b)* other instances of maladministration attributable to it in the last year for which figures are available. [270498]

Kitty Ussher: I have consulted with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission who are now responsible for the Child Support Agency. They have confirmed that the information requested is not available.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what factors underlie the time taken to release to Mona McNamara by the Child Support Agency monies collected from the non-resident parent in December 2008 and January, February, March and April 2009. [274812]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 13 May 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Council Tax Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of council tax benefit claimants of working age who have capital assets of between £6,000 and £16,000; and if he will make a statement. [272662]

Kitty Ussher: As at May 2004, the most recent available information, there were 9,000 council tax benefit recipients under 60 years of age with capital assets between £6,000 and £16,000 in Great Britain.

Notes:

1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.

2. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

3. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.

5. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent detailed statistics available are for May 2004.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Annual 1 per cent. sample taken in May 2004.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274514]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies deal with all complaints on an equal basis, however they are made. How they are dealt with will depend on whether the complaint is about a decision on entitlement, for which there is generally a right of appeal, or about the manner in which the service is delivered.

For example, customers who are dissatisfied with any statutory decision made by Jobcentre Plus can appeal. In the first instance, the decision is reviewed by another decision-maker. If the decision remains unchanged after the review, Jobcentre Plus sends the case to the Tribunals Service as part of the appeal process. The Tribunals Service are responsible for administering the appeals process and contact customers about the hearing, which may be held in person or by correspondence.

Jobcentre Plus treats decisions complained about in correspondence as an appeal and automatically reconsiders the decision. Where appropriate, Jobcentre Plus contacts the customer for further information to support the appeal process.

Most complaints about the service provided can be resolved straightaway by the person dealing with the customer and each of the Department's agencies seeks to achieve this. Each has a clear and simple process for dealing with customer complaints and details of this are contained in their leaflets.

Where failings are identified we provide appropriate redress, which might typically include an apology, correction of any error and, where appropriate, financial redress.

Where a customer is not satisfied with the response given to their complaint they can ask for a review of the complaint and any redress given. This will first be by a senior manager and, if the customer remains dissatisfied, by the chief executive of the agency concerned.

If the customer remains dissatisfied, he or she can ask the independent case examiner (ICE) to review matters. A request for ICE to investigate should be made within six months of the chief executive's response.

The ICE will consider complaints about service delivery, though not matters of law or Government policy. He will review the papers and attempt to mediate. If this is not possible he will report his findings and inform the customer of their right to ask a MP to refer the matter to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on maintaining its website in the last 12 months. [272488]

Jonathan Shaw: Maintenance of DWP websites including www.dwp.gov.uk is mostly carried out by the Department's own in-house digital media team. It is not possible for us to quantify

internal staff costs because, in most cases, staff are engaged in more than one role. In addition, we are unable to establish accurately our infrastructure costs because they form part of a wider departmental IT contract.

DWP have worked with the Central Office of Information to develop a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government. This will be implemented from March 2009.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275977]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to take up the additional support provided through *(a)* incentives to employees to recruit and train unemployed people, *(b)* training places, *(c)* work-focused volunteering and *(d)* help to establish a business under the six month offer to the unemployed; [271686]

(2) what level of take up of the six month offer he anticipates in respect of *(a)* employment subsidy vouchers, *(b)* train to gain funding, *(c)* training places, *(d)* volunteering and *(e)* help for the self-employed under the six month offer. [271714]

Mr. McNulty: We have anticipated and funded the six month offer for the provision of 500,000 opportunities for jobseekers who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for 26 weeks or more for two years from April 2009 to March 2011.

The offers are voluntary and are therefore demand led. The overall package is designed to be flexible and respond to customer needs. It is also possible that for any individual customer, a mix of offers may be appropriate.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills expects to provide 75,000 new work focused training opportunities over two years. The volunteering offer expects to provide 40,000 opportunities over this same period.

Incapacity Benefit

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants attended an appointment for a personal capability assessment in each of the last three years; and what percentage this figure represents of those incapacity benefit claimants asked to attend for such an assessment in each such year. [275431]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* The available information is in the table.

Number and percentage of incapacity benefit claimants that attended an appointment for a personal capability assessment in each of the last three years

April to March each year	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006-07	507,734	77.4
2007-08	535,119	74.4
2008-09	513,511	72

Source:
Medical Services

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of group review interviews for existing Jobseeker's Allowance claimants conducted in place of one-to-one review interviews in each month since January 2008. [271694]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

National Insurance Contributions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the change in revenue for the Exchequer if employee and employer national insurance contributions were charged on aggregate income from all employments; and if he will make a statement. [269040]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Aggregating the earnings of people doing more than one job with separate employers would be administratively complex for employers. Information on the number of people with more than one employee job who would pay more national insurance contributions (NICs), and the average increase they would pay, under a cumulative annual basis of assessment for employee's NICs is shown in "Income tax and national insurance alignment: an evidence-based assessment" published in October 2007. It is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr07_income.htm

Estimates for employers NICs are not available.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on national insurance contributions, if he will estimate how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women over state pension age would be eligible to purchase up to six additional years of national insurance contributions if eligibility applied (i) only to those with 20 or more qualifying years, (ii) only to those with 15 or more qualifying years and (iii) only to those with 10 or more qualifying years. [272192]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

New Deal Schemes

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals in each region have been on the new deal for young people more than once since its inception; [268841]

(2) how many individuals in each region have been on the new deal 25 plus more than once since its inception; [268842]

(3) how many individuals in each region have been on the new deal for lone parents more than once since its inception; [268846]

(4) how many 18 to 24 year olds in each region have been on the new deal for lone parents more than once since its inception. [268847]

Mr. McNulty: New Deal repeaters are more likely to enter employment from their second spell on the programme than their first. Each period on New Deal moves participants closer to the labour market. The information is in the following table.

Number of individuals in each region who have been on New Deal for Young People (NDYP), New Deal 25+ (ND25+) and New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP) more than once since each programme's inception (November 2008)

	NDYP	ND25+	NDLP (all)	NDLP (aged 18-24)
Scotland	45,400	26,610	36,940	7,670
North East	31,120	18,790	20,990	4,760
North West	55,480	28,250	46,710	9,740
Yorkshire and Humber	45,160	27,470	32,590	6,860
Wales	22,470	10,360	22,780	4,670
West Midlands	45,790	23,580	25,530	4,740
East Midlands	24,210	14,850	15,870	2,780
East of England	21,530	15,140	20,170	2,900
South East	23,650	16,950	26,940	3,860
London	65,170	47,680	45,700	6,090
South West	19,200	11,520	26,790	4,230

Note:
Age group on entry into New Deal based on age at the time of initial interview
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate definitions and conventions: figures are rounded to the nearest 10

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question 265969 on 0845 telephone numbers, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 19 March 2009. [274414]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 568W.

Pension Credit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people of working age have been claiming pension credit *(a)* in each month of the last two years and *(b)* in each year since pension credit was introduced. [271689]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to tackling age discrimination and working through the Age Positive Initiative to continue to encourage employers to adopt flexible approaches to work and employment that will allow more choices and opportunity for older people to remain in, or re-enter the labour market.

From April 2009, financial incentives of up to £2,500 will be available to employers that recruit and train people who have been unemployed for six months or longer.

The qualifying age for pension credit is linked to the state pension age for women, which means that men aged 60 to 64 can claim pension credit without having reached their state pension age. The state pension age for women, and therefore the qualifying age for pension credit, is due to increase gradually from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2020. The information requested is in the tables. The new claims data in tables 1 and 2 do not capture those claims where the partner is below state pension age, they count only those claims where the claimant is below state pension age.

Table 1: Number of new pension credit claims from men aged 60 to 64 in each month September 2006 to August 2008

	Number of claims
2006	
September	5,210
October	5,290
November	5,360
December	4,410
2007	
January	5,610
February	4,910
March	5,460
April	5,200
May	5,440
June	5,450
July	5,500
August	5,420
September	4,920
October	5,460
November	5,240
December	3,890
2008	
January	5,590
February	5,170
March	4,960
April	5,480
May	5,050
June	5,320
July	6,060
August	5,390

Table 2: Number of new pension credit claims from men aged 60 to 64 each year 2003-08

	Number of claims
2003	198,450
2004	66,410
2005	56,550
2006	60,030
2007	62,500
2008 (January to August)	43,020

Notes:
1. The on flow data used represent the total number of spells on this benefit that commenced within the month/year listed. They do not include flows where people have moved out of one area into another while remaining on the benefit.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Females

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in implementing the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in UK and international development programmes in Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [275864]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has made the following provisions to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in its development programmes in Afghanistan:

Drawing on the findings of the research DFID commissioned at the end of last year, titled 'Understanding Afghanistan', we have developed a detailed Gender Equality Action plan for Afghanistan. This plan supports the 10-year National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA) by ensuring gender equality is an integral part of our programme.

The UK Government are working closely with the Afghan Government to ensure that gender equality is integrated into their own policies to ensure long-term, sustainable improvements. We have provided an adviser to the Afghanistan Government to ensure the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), which lays out its development plan over the next five years, has integrated cross-cutting issues such as gender equality into sector plans. DFID also provides funding to Womankind and UNIFEM who are both working to support women's rights in Afghanistan.

In addition, DFID has committed almost £11 million (2008-09) to support elections in Afghanistan. At present women hold 68 out of 249 seats in the Lower House and 23 out of 102 seats in the Upper House. Our funding will raise awareness and understanding of the electoral process and empower women's political participation.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to take account of the needs of women and girls in its work on reconstruction and assistance to Afghanistan since its response to the International Development Select Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2007-08 on Reconstructing Afghanistan. [275865]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has drawn on the findings of the research commissioned last year, titled 'Understanding Afghanistan', to develop a detailed Gender Equality Action Plan for Afghanistan. This plan supports the 10-year National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA) by ensuring gender equality is an integral part of our programme.

The UK Government are working closely with the Afghan Government to ensure that gender equality is integrated into its own policies. We have provided an adviser to the Afghan Government to ensure the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) has integrated cross-cutting issues such as gender equality into sector plans. We invested £60 million (2008-09) through the Government of Afghanistan's Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF): this helps pay the salaries of over 165,000 teachers. 28 per cent. of teachers are now women and this has helped to ensure the number of girls enrolled in school continues to grow. 35 per cent. of all enrolled students are now girls, up from virtually none under the Taliban.

In addition, the Department for International Development (DFID) is providing funding to Womankind and UNIFEM and £40 million of support over five years to the Micro-Finance Investment Support Facility in Afghanistan, which provides small loans to poor individuals to invest in businesses. Nearly 65 per cent. of those receiving loans are women.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that girls from communities in Afghanistan where they are prevented from attending school receive adequate nutrition. [275866]

Mr. Michael Foster: Food insecurity remains the most pressing humanitarian concern for Afghanistan. Over the last year chronic food insecurity has been driven by high food prices and drought. The UN World Food Programme's (WFP) emergency response—to which the Department for International Development (DFID) contributed £17 million from January 2008—reached 8.7 million of Afghanistan's most vulnerable. This programme distributes food to families in the most food vulnerable parts of Afghanistan based on a WFP and Government of Afghanistan needs assessment, regardless of whether girls are attending school.

Afghanistan: Overseas Investment

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the work of the Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility. [276102]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility (AICF) has made good progress since its launch in June 2008 having already approved four proposals for funding, including a project with the Afghanistan National Standards Authority to help Afghan producers to obtain higher prices for their goods. A further five proposals are under development. The Department for International Development (DFID) will carry out a full review of the programme in due course.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* CDC and *(b)* the Business Linkages Challenge Fund operate in Afghanistan. [276104]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: CDC Group plc has not invested in any funds at present which invest in Afghanistan.

The Business Linkages Challenge Fund (BLCF) is now closed. While operational, the BLCF supported one project in Afghanistan. Information about this project is available on the BLCF website at:

http://www.businesslinkageschallengefund.org/ManufacturingAfghanistan.aspx

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in March 2009. [271852]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development paid 60 per cent. of payments to suppliers in March within 10 days of receipt.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273563]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID), in line with all other Chief Information Officers (CIOs) on the Cabinet Office CIO Council, has produced a "CIO Green ICT Roadmap" which we will be following to deliver against the 18 target improvement areas outlined in the Greening Government IT Strategy.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer provided to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1014W.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and Abyei in Sudan. [275312]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in Abyei and Southern Kordofan closely. The population of Abyei (and surrounding areas) is fewer than 50,000, most living in displaced camps in Agok, with 650 in Southern Kordofan. United Nations (UN) sources indicate that the humanitarian system is stable, although the situation remains tense, with the coming rains posing an increased risk of disease and logistical challenges in the delivery of assistance. We are also expecting the results of a recent joint UN/Government assessment of the NGO expulsions impact on the transitional areas, which should provide a more comprehensive picture of any gaps in the humanitarian response and impact on future recovery programmes.

The UK Government provide humanitarian and early recovery support primarily through the UN-managed Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), which contributed $10.1 million for Southern Kordofan, and an additional $3.3 million for Abyei in 2008. Our 2008 share of the CHF was around 50 per cent. at £40 million. For 2009, we have provided a further £36 million. In addition, the UK Government are supporting recovery in the police (Abyei) and education sectors (up to £5.7 million), and through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) which has provided $28.67 million in funding for Southern Kordofan.

Uzbekistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid the Government gave to Uzbekistan in the last 12 months; and whether any funding from his Department is targeted on reducing that country's reliance on the employment of children in the cotton industry. [275792]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government closed their bilateral aid programme to Uzbekistan in March 2006. However, the Department for International Development (DFID) funds a Central Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Programme, which operates in Uzbekistan, totalling £7.4 million over four years. DFID has also committed £1 million to a World Bank led Central Asia HIV Control Project and continues to monitor and support the work of multilateral institutions in Uzbekistan. No UK Government funding goes through the Government of Uzbekistan.

Zimbabwe: Economic Situation

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with officials from the African Development Bank on a financial rescue package for Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [275318]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers from the Department for International Development (DFID) have met with Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), on a number of occasions over recent months. Most recently the Secretary of State met him on 2 April 2009 at the G20 summit in London. DFID staff have also held regular meetings at senior level with African Development Bank officials, including most recently at the AfDB annual meetings in Senegal on May 13-14.

In all of these meetings we have emphasised the importance of a strong AfDB role and country presence to provide early technical support to key institutions in the new Inclusive Government, to help co-ordinate donor engagement and, generally, to help build and maintain momentum for much needed reform efforts in Zimbabwe. However, further major support from the AfDB, from other institutions such as the IMF and World Bank and from the wider donor community will only be made available when we begin to see evidence of a commitment to political and economic reform. Establishing a track record on strong and competent fiscal management and tackling debt arrears will be key issues for the Inclusive Government in building confidence with the international community to support recovery.

JUSTICE

Ashwell Prison

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been transferred out of HM Prison Ashwell since 12 April 2009. [275529]

Mr. Straw: Between 12 April 2009 and 13 May 2009, 20 prisoners have been transferred out of HMP Ashwell.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population at HM Prison Ashwell was in each of the last six months. [275535]

Mr. Straw: The following table gives the numbers of prisoners held in HMP Ashwell on the last day of each month between October 2008 to March 2008 (latest available).

Prison population within HMP Ashwell, October 2008 to March 2009

	Number
October 2008	610
November 2008	615
December 2008	609
January 2009	617
February 2009	610
March 2009	618

This information is available from the following website, which is updated monthly:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Council Tax: Non-payment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point for non-payment of council tax in each of the last five years. [276108]

Maria Eagle: Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under regulation 56 of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 form part of a miscellaneous group on the Ministry of Justice Court proceedings database which cannot be separately identified.

Debt Collection

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many court orders were obtained by each local authority in England in 2007-08; and how many of these related to *(a)* council tax, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* parking penalties; [276205]

(2) how many warrants to authorise bailiff action were issued at the request of each local authority in England in 2007-08; [276206]

(3) what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* percentage change in the number of (i) court orders and (ii) warrants to authorise bailiff action secured by each local authority (A) relating to council tax, (B) relating to housing benefit, (C) relating to parking penalties and (D) overall in England was between (1) 1997-98 and 2002-03 and (2) 1997-98 and 2007-08; [276207]

(4) how many bailiff warrants were issued in each region in respect of *(a)* council tax, *(b)* magistrates court fines, *(c)* consumer credit debts, *(d)* parking penalties and congestion charges, *(e)* child support and maintenance, *(f)* television licences and *(g)* other matters in (i) 1997-98, (ii) 2002-03 and (iii) 2007-08; [276208]

(5) how many mortgage and landlord repossession orders were granted by each county court in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2007-08. [276209]

Bridget Prentice: Statistics on mortgage repossession orders granted by each county court from 1987 to 2008 and on landlord repossession orders granted by each county court from 1999 to 2008 are available via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-landlord-mortgage-historic-20-02-09.xls

However, landlord repossession order data are not held prior to 1999.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold statistical counts of:

court orders obtained by local authorities;

warrants to authorise bailiff action issued at the request of local authorities;

warrants to authorise bailiff action issued in respect of (a) council tax, (b) magistrates court fines, (c) consumer credit debts, (d) parking penalties and congestion charges, (e) child support and maintenance, (f) television licences and (g) other matters.

The administrative computer systems used in the county courts do not enable easy identification of whether cases are brought specifically by local authorities, of the specific case type listed. All relevant cases are logged on the system and the claimant name is recorded. However, the statistics requested could only be derived following extensive manual searching of individual case records, which would incur disproportionate cost.

In addition, the numbers of orders made in magistrates courts are not held centrally.

Legal Aid

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on legal aid in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [275920]

Mr. Hanson: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record legal aid expenditure in such as way as to readily ascribe it to *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire or *(b)* Cambridgeshire. Obtaining this information would require a manual extraction of data, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Legal aid expenditure, in cash terms, for each of the past 10 years in *(d)* England and Wales is given in the following table. Expenditure for *(c)* the East of England region is available only from 2001-02 as obtaining this information for earlier years would require a manual extraction of data, which would incur disproportionate cost. Expenditure has been attributed on the basis of the location of the court in which proceedings were conducted for some legal aid schemes and the location of the service provider for others. Small elements of expenditure, for example, CDS Direct, have been excluded as they cannot easily be allocated to specific regions.

	East of England	£ million England and Wales
1998-99	n/a	1,629
1999-2000	n/a	1,550
2000-01	n/a	1,664
2001-02	113	1,717
2002-03	123	1,909
2003-04	132	2,077
2004-05	142	2,030
2005-06	142	2,029
2006-07	148	1,980
2007-08	133	2,023

n/a = Not available

Lindholme Prison

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners he expects to be released early from HM Prison Lindholme in the next six months. [275534]

Mr. Straw: The number discharged from prison are dependent on a variety of factors, including the profile of the prison population in each establishment, the specifics of legislation or policies pertaining at the time, those received into the prison, movements between prisons and in the case of Lindholme the practicalities of removing foreign national prisoners to their home countries. No assessment has therefore been made on the number of releases, early or otherwise, from any specific prison.

Estimates of the prison population as a whole are generally published annually. This gives the projected monthly prison population in England and Wales for the next seven years. Sub-population (such as gender) estimates are presented alongside the effects of legislation, sentencing activity, and other factors relevant to the prison population. The relevant page on the Ministry of Justice website is:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

Members: Correspondence

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, the right hon. Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Rugby and Kenilworth of 18 March 2009, on Clifton Court Nursing Home. [276270]

Mr. Hanson: I am sorry for the delay. A reply has been sent and the hon. Member should receive it shortly.

Prisoners' Discharge Grants

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much on average prisoners received in a discharge grant in 2008. [275554]

Mr. Straw: Prison Service Order (PSO) 6400 (Discharge) states that all eligible prisoners aged 18 or over sentenced to a custodial sentence of more than 14 days must be given a discharge grant of £46 on release. Prisoners released from custody will not receive any benefits immediately and the grant is intended to meet their immediate basic needs.

Prisoners in the following categories are not eligible for a discharge grant:

Sentenced prisoners who are known to have in excess of £8,000 in savings (and would therefore be ineligible for income support under the relevant regulations);

Unconvicted prisoners;

Those serving a custodial sentence of 14 days or less;

Those recalled from licence to prison for a period of 14 days or less;

Those awaiting deportation or removal from the United Kingdom;

Those travelling to an address outside the United Kingdom. For the purpose of paying the discharge grant, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland are included within the United Kingdom;

Those being discharged to a hospital under a Mental Health Act Section Order;

Fine defaulters and those held on further remand warrants.

Prisons: Barking and Dagenham

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what area of land is required to build the proposed prison on the Beam Park West site; [275075]

(2) what proportion of the London Development Agency's Beam Park West site is required to be secured in order to build the prison he proposes. [275118]

Mr. Straw: Our intention is to purchase the entire Beam Park West site. A minimum of 35 acres is required for a 1,500 place prison.

Prisons: Location

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-71, on prisons and probation, what factors he took into account in deciding on sites for the new prisons. [275826]

Mr. Straw: Criteria including size, location, shape and topography of sites as well as public and private transport and planning policies were taken into account during the site search.

Young Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates of each age group there were in each young offender institution in each year since 1997. [272025]

Mr. Hanson: Available information provided in the following table shows the number of 15-17 year olds and young adults under sentence in prison establishments in England and Wales as at the end of June 2002 to June 2007 (latest available).

Young adults are those aged 18-20 and those 21-year-olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population.

It is not possible to provide information from 1997 without incurring disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population in prison establishments[1] under sentence, by age, June 2002 to June 2007

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	15-17	*18-20*	*15-17*	*18-20*	*15-17*	*18-20*	*15-17*	*18-20*	*15-17*	*18-20*	*15-17*	*18-20*
Altcourse	1	106	0	94	0	65	0	82	0	134	0	150
Ashfield	249	64	171	133	254	56	265	44	294	63	319	66
Aylesbury	0	328	0	292	0	318	0	363	1	346	1	347
Bedworth	0	41	0	22	0	11	0	16	0	25	0	15
Blakenhurst	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brinsford	173	280	171	259	177	260	182	256	199	263	145	314
Bristol	0	20	0	0	0	27	0	30	0	30	0	38
Brockhill	13	38	9	35	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronzefield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	30	0	11
Bullingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0
Bullwood Hall	28	108	14	100	17	19	15	90	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	178	143	140	126	136	229	126	205	141	226	134	236
Chelmsford	0	166	0	110	1	149	2	118	0	142	0	199
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	26	0	15	0	0	14	4	16	7
Dartmoor	0	405	0	375	0	401	0	390	0	367	0	390
Doncaster	1	287	0	222	0	258	0	260	0	262	0	311
Dorchester	0	14	0	19	0	19	0	28	0	30	0	19
Dover	0	23	0	33	0	22	0	38	0	16	0	14
Downview	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	16	5	15	1
Drake Hall	0	39	0	24	0	26	0	0	0	25	0	0
East Sutton Park	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	8	52	6	38	8	51	11	34	17	63	14	67
Elmley	0	53	0	53	0	54	1	52	0	70	0	86
Exeter	0	47	0	66	0	49	0	73	0	51	0	0
Feltham	287	333	264	323	229	354	217	372	208	367	208	354
Forest Bank	0	213	0	226	0	138	0	138	0	159	0	109
Foston Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6
Glen Parva	0	764	0	696	1	650	0	746	0	737	0	756
Gloucester	0	13	0	0	0	16	0	18	0	17	1	10
Guys Marsh	0	113	0	106	0	121	0	68	0	67	0	65
Haslar	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	10	0	14	0	0
Highdown	1	76	0	77	0	55	0	64	1	78	1	145
Hindley	171	325	145	332	147	297	146	250	154	260	147	339
Holloway Bay	108	65	2	19	0	13	0	14	0	15	0	21
Holloway	13	56	10	40	9	38	2	60	1	105	0	109
Holme House	0	39	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hull	0	99	0	121	0	91	0	96	0	90	0	119
Huntercombe	237	68	212	52	293	64	285	53	299	55	288	68
Lancaster Farms	170	283	166	270	168	271	208	295	205	291	217	290
Lewes	0	40	0	39	1	28	1	32	0	41	0	29
Lindholme	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Low Newton	1	77	1	62	0	57	0	58	0	36	0	21
Moorland	0	324	0	420	0	255	0	352	0	251	0	347
New Hall	46	52	34	46	42	50	32	44	22	49	19	53
Northallerton	0	222	0	205	0	214	0	191	0	210	0	233
Norwich	0	149	0	140	0	138	0	150	0	159	0	156
Onley	188	295	196	310	0	199	0	157	0	160	0	199
Parc	16	399	19	421	21	317	15	346	34	340	51	351
Peterborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	31	0	49
Portland	0	431	0	383	0	392	0	343	1	409	0	464
Reading	0	242	0	224	0	243	0	267	0	261	2	246
Rochester	0	152	0	143	0	300	0	344	0	363	0	368
Stocken	166	447	112	404	162	422	162	428	180	456	178	469
Styal	3	77	0	25	0	0	0	38	0	39	0	59
Swaleside	3	266	0	230	0	287	0	306	0	306	0	337
Thorn Cross	26	146	25	133	35	196	35	176	22	156	23	184
Usk/Prescoed	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Population in prison establishments[1, 2] under sentence, by age, June 2002 to June 2007

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	15-17	18-20	15-17	18-20	15-17	18-20	15-17	18-20	15-17	18-20	15-17	18-20
Warren Hill	0	0	163	27	173	35	183	28	183	33	175	36
Werrington	116	14	90	23	108	31	114	19	133	22	0	0
Wetherby	293	40	285	43	250	30	290	51	284	51	287	67
Woodhill	0	97	0	86	3	61	5	75	6	65	3	82
Other establishments	0	53	0	60	1	69	0	62	0	65	0	90

[1] To reduce the size of the table, where inmates for both age groups combined per establishment are less than 10 the establishment figures are included in "Other establishments".
[2] For accuracy, figures are excluded where inmates for both age groups combined per establishment are less than 10.

Youth Justice

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he has set for the publication of the strategy on the health and social care needs of children and younger people across the youth justice pathway, referred to in his Department's response to Lord Bradley's report. [275916]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

A strategy to meet the health and social care needs of children and young people across the youth justice pathway is being developed following the launch of Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. The strategy for children and young people is expected to be published in the autumn 2009 following approval from the forthcoming Health and Criminal Justice Programme Board.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

US-EU Relations

10. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of President Obama's recent visit to Europe on US-EU relations. [276075]

Bill Rammell: This was an important visit to Europe by President Obama. His meetings with partners in the G20, NATO and EU reinforced the importance of working together and helped to build further the shared sense of direction we need for a strong transatlantic relationship.

G20 Summit

11. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for UK policy of the outcomes of the recent London G20 Summit. [276076]

Gillian Merron: The G20 London Summit was a significant success for the UK, with key agreements on: financial regulation; reform of financial institutions; preventing protectionism; development, and climate change. All of these are critical for restoring growth, building stability and supporting jobs.

Middle East Peace Process

12. **Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of discussions with his European counterparts on a united European approach to the Middle East peace process. [276077]

Bill Rammell: The EU has a hugely important role to play in achieving peace in the Middle East. When we last discussed this issue at the end of April, all 27 EU Foreign Ministers agreed that the EU approach to the Middle East Peace Process should be clear: support a two-state solution as the only viable outcome of a final settlement. Both the EU and the UK will pursue this goal vigorously in the coming months.

13. **Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in the Middle East peace process; and if he will make a statement. [276078]

Bill Rammell: We are encouraged by recent developments in the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP). The new Israeli Government has signalled a commitment to resume peace negotiations including a political track. The Palestinian Authority is also ready to enter peace negotiations with the new Israeli Government when the conditions are right. The Obama Administration has made a priority of the MEPP, appointing Senator Mitchell as a Special Envoy. The United Nations Security Council, chaired by Russia, discussed the MEPP on 11 May and issued a Presidential Statement.

The MEPP remains a priority for HM Government. We shall continue to support efforts towards a two-state solution. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this during his intervention at the UN on 11 May.

General Affairs Council

15. **Mr. Fiello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had in the General Affairs Council on EU policy to tackle trade protectionism; and if he will make a statement. [276080]

22. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had in the General Affairs Council on EU policy to tackle trade protectionism; and if he will make a statement. [276087]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions at the General Affairs council on EU policy to tackle trade

protectionism. Agreement at Spring European Council ahead of the London Summit to keep markets open and avoid all form of protectionist measures demonstrates Europe is committed to rejecting protectionism in order to facilitate a recovery of the world economy.

Gaza

16. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to facilitate the opening of all border crossings into Gaza. [276081]

Bill Rammell: The UK remains concerned with the severe humanitarian situation in Gaza. We have continually urged Israel to open the crossings into Gaza, particularly for humanitarian aid, but also for reconstruction materials and trade and have already raised this issue with the new Israeli Government. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear in his meeting with the Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman on 13 May 2009 and also in his statement to the UN on 11 May 2009.

EU-US Relations

17. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with his US counterpart on EU-US relations following President Obama's recent visit to Europe. [276082]

Bill Rammell: Close dialogue between the EU and US remains essential as we tackle the range of challenges we share. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will continue to engage with my European and American colleagues closely on how we can work together to address these issues—as he last did with US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton in Washington on 12 May 2009.

Pakistan: Swat Region

18. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens in the Swat region of Pakistan. [276083]

Bill Rammell: We believe that there are about 80,000 British nationals in Pakistan at any one time. All but a small percentage are dual nationals either resident in Pakistan or visiting family members. We do not have accurate figures for the number of British nationals in Swat but this is not an area recognised as having particularly high concentrations of British nationals when compared to other parts of the country.

BBC Kinyarwanda Service: Rwanda

19. **Mr. Joyce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the suspension of the BBC Kinyarwanda service for Rwanda; and if he will make a statement. [276084]

Caroline Flint: The BBC Kinyarwanda service for Rwanda is suspended on FM due to Government action. I am concerned at this development and assured by BBC World Service that they are seeking urgent clarification of the Government's decision. The World Service refutes allegations of misreporting and is making every effort to get FM broadcasts in Kinyarwanda restored.

Afghanistan

20. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which the Government's political objectives for Afghanistan have been achieved since 2001. [276085]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out our assessment of the current situation in Afghanistan and the way forward in his statement to Parliament on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 869, and the associated strategy document. We keep progress against our objectives in Afghanistan under constant review.

General Affairs Council: Swedish Presidency

21. **David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Swedish counterpart on the Swedish Presidency's programme for the General Affairs Council. [276086]

Caroline Flint: I visited Stockholm on 28 April for talks with the Swedish Europe Minister, Cecilia Malmstrom. Sweden has clearly prioritised: tackling the global financial crisis; overseeing the coming EU institutional changes; and working towards an ambitious global agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this December. We welcome these priorities.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Swedish counterpart on the Swedish Presidency's programme for the General Affairs Council. [276079]

Caroline Flint: I visited Stockholm on 28 April for talks with the Swedish Europe Minister, Cecilia Malmstrom. Sweden has set clear priorities: tackling the global financial crisis; overseeing EU institutional changes; and working towards an ambitious global agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this December. We support these priorities.

Zimbabwe

23. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek an early meeting with the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe to discuss the political situation in that country. [276088]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary welcomed Finance Minister Biti to a meeting on 30 April 2009. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch Brown, also met Biti on that day, and met Prime Minister Tsvangirai and Foreign Minister Mumbengegwi in South Africa on 9 May 2009—the first official meetings between British and Zimbabwean Ministers since April 2000 and reflecting the UK's concern to support the ongoing process of reform in Zimbabwe.

Afghanistan and Iraq

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens are directly employed by his Department in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and in what capacities. [275458]

Bill Rammell: In Afghanistan there are 297 and in Iraq 339 British Citizens employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The capacity in which these people are employed crosses political, development and support services.

The number of British citizens employed in Afghanistan and Iraq includes all FCO staff (civil servants and inward secondees), those employed under an individual contract with the FCO as well as those contracted to a hiring company under contract to the FCO. Contracted staff include cleaning, catering, security, medical and facilities management.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the health of Aung San Suu Kyi and the medical treatment that she is receiving; and if he will make a statement. [276352]

Bill Rammell: Following the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi's doctor on 7 May 2009, an assistant doctor was permitted to visit Aung San Suu Kyi on Friday 8 May 2009 and reported that she suffered from low blood pressure and dehydration. Mrs Suu Kyi was reported to be in good spirits during a further visit permitted on Monday 11 May 2009. We have received reports that she appeared to be in good health on arrival for her trial on 18 May 2009. We understand that her doctor has now been released but we are not aware that he has been able to see Mrs Suu Kyi since her arrest.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the conditions in Insein Prison in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [276353]

Bill Rammell: On 16 February, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, Tomas Quintana, was able to visit Insein prison as part of his fact finding tour to the country. He was able in inspect certain areas of the prison, although his visit was heavily stage-managed by the Burmese authorities. In his report of 11 March 2009 he drew attention to some prisoners being shackled and their lack of access to legal representation. We support his call for the release of all political prisoners in Insein prison and elsewhere.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for the UN Security Council to take steps in response to the arrest and detention of Aung San Suu Kyi by the Burmese regime on 14 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [276354]

Bill Rammell: We share UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon's expression of grave concern at Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest on 14 May 2009.

We are continuing to discuss the situation with our international colleagues in the UN. Once the outcome of the trial is known, we will actively consider how best to engage members of the UN Security Council further on the situation in Burma.

Australia

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on international security with the Australian Government. [276061]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* The British and Australian Governments are in regular and close contact at ministerial and official level to discuss the full range of international security challenges. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions on security issues with his Australian counterpart most recently in London in April 2009.

During the visit of the Australian Prime Minister for the London summit in April, a joint statement was issued by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and Prime Minister Rudd, which agreed a new and comprehensive security partnership covering key areas of common concern.

British Overseas Territories: Crime Prevention

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many records are stored on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System. [272621]

Gillian Merron: There are 1,406,891 records stored on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his UN Security Council (UNSC) counterparts on implementation of UNSC Resolution 1843 in South Kivu. [275317]

Gillian Merron: The UN Security Council most recently discussed the uplift of personnel and resources for the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUC) in consultations on 9 April 2009. This matter will also be raised during a UN Security Council visit to the DRC between 17 and 18 May 2009. On 13 May 2009, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed the issue with Alan Doss, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for DRC.

Departmental Telecommunications

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid for telecommunications services in

the most recent year for which figures are available; when the contract with its existing telecommunications supplier referred to on page 131 of the Budget Red Book 2009 was signed; who the telecommunications supplier is; and what steps he plans to take to achieve the £6 million per annum saving referred to on page 131 of the Budget Red Book. [275461]

Gillian Merron: In the financial year 2008-09 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £26 million on centrally funded telecommunications services, net of VAT. The contract with the current supplier, Global Crossing, was signed on 10 May 2000.

The contract provides a review mechanism enabling the FCO to ensure that it continues to receive value for money over the term of the agreement. Savings arising from changed technologies and market conditions have been identified and passed on by the supplier as an agreed series of cost reductions. As a result the amount paid in 2008-09 was £26 million, not the £32 million originally agreed. This mechanism will operate for the remaining duration of the contract.

Embassies: Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the marking of *(a)* Christmas, *(b)* Easter and *(c)* other religious festivals in British Embassies and High Commissions overseas; and if he will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [275437]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office recognises the significant contribution played by different faiths, both home and abroad, to the fabric of UK society. We currently have no central guidance on this matter as we leave this to the discretion of our Heads of Mission overseas. However, I have asked officials to review whether formal guidance is necessary.

EU Battlegroups

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* personnel have been committed to the EU Atalanta mission. [273844]

Caroline Flint: The UK contribution to Operation Atalanta includes the operation commander and the operation headquarters at Northwood. The Royal Navy also provided HMS Northumberland for the first phase of the operation but she has since moved onto other duties. While not formally part of the mission, tanker support has been provided, on an occasional basis, through RFA Wave Knight.

Greece, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Italy, Spain and UK have provided a combination of assets and manpower to Operation Atalanta. Specific details of which can be found on the EU operation headquarters website:

www.mschoa.eu

The UK is also providing a liaison officer embedded in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a naval coalition conducting counter terrorism, counter narcotics, counter smuggling and counter piracy operations. The Royal Navy also contributes a frigate, currently HMS Portland to Combined Maritime Forces. EU and CMF operations work together highly effectively in pursuing common objectives.

EU Budget

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for reform of the EU budget; and if he will make a statement. [276215]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* In December 2005 the European Council agreed for an EU budget review to take place by the end of 2009. We look forward to discussing the Commission's white paper with member states.

Gambia: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of the Gambia on *(a)* the case of David and Fiona Fulton and *(b)* new charges brought against David and Fiona Fulton. [275327]

Gillian Merron: We have registered our interest in the Fulton case with the Gambian authorities and made representations where appropriate on behalf of Mr. Fulton. Mr. Fulton has not asked us to make representations with regard to the latest charges brought against him. Mrs Fulton does not face new charges.

Ghana: Politics and Government

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Ghanaian counterpart on the political situation in Ghana. [276065]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Ghanaian Foreign Minister during President Mills' visit to London two weeks ago.

They discussed the success of the recent democratic elections in Ghana and the positive example this has set in the region, the continued work between both Governments on promoting stability in West Africa and the need for an equitable solution to the challenge of climate change. The discussion also touched upon the rich variety of educational and cultural links between the UK and Ghana.

Gibraltar: Politics and Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the appointment of the new Governor of Gibraltar is expected to be announced. [276293]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* The appointment of the Governor is a matter for Her Majesty The Queen acting on the advice of Government and will be announced at the appropriate time.

India: Elections

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the probable outcome of the general election in India; and if he will make a statement. [276073]

Bill Rammell: The Indian election result was announced on 16 May 2009. It was expected that no one party would have a sufficient majority to form the new Indian Government. The relevant political parties will now consult to form the next coalition. The UK enjoys constructive relations with India and we look forward to working with the new Indian Government.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Iranian authorities on the detention without charge of Maryam Rostampour and Marzieh Amirizadeh in Evin Prison in Iran. [276321]

Bill Rammell: We have received worrying reports that Maryam Rostampour and Marzieh Amirizadeh are being held in Evin prison following their arrest by Iranian security officers on 5 March 2009. The women are known be practicing Christians. Reports suggest that neither have been charged with any crime defined under Iranian or international legislation, nor have they been permitted access to lawyers. The UK has genuine concerns for their safety and well-being, which are heightened by the fact that the Iranian Parliament is currently debating a draft Bill which could codify life imprisonment for female apostates.

We have made clear to the Iranian authorities on many occasions that we believe persecution of individuals on the grounds of their ethnicity or religious beliefs is unacceptable, and will continue to do so through the EU and bilaterally. We will continue to press the Iranian authorities to take seriously their international human rights obligations and uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (to which Iran is a state party).

Iraq: Oil

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the Government of Iraq on *(a)* the return of monies held in escrow under the UN oil-for-food programme and not yet received and *(b)* the disbursement of international commitments for development aid; what estimate he has made of the sums due to the Iraqi Government in each case; and if he will make a statement. [275994]

Bill Rammell: The Government have not received any specific representations from the Government of Iraq (GoI) on the oil-for-food programme. However, the GoI has asked us to help it resolve outstanding UN resolutions relating to Iraq. We support the review of those UN Security Council Resolutions that are still in effect as part of the process to help Iraq normalise its relationship with the international community.

We will continue to work with other members of the UN Security Council to resolve outstanding issues on the oil-for-food programme so that it can be concluded with the mutual agreement of all parties, including the Iraqi Government.

We have not received any representations from the GoI on the disbursement of international development commitments. Any outstanding commitments from the international community regarding the disbursement of development funds are a matter for the GoI to address direct with donors.

Malta: Illegal Immigrants

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of Malta and *(b)* the EU on illegal migration to Malta from the African coast; and if he will make a statement. [275558]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met Foreign Minster Dr. Tonio Borg on 20 November 2008. During this meeting migration was discussed, and Dr. Borg mentioned co-operation with Italy on illegal migration.

Illegal migration was also raised by Malta and Italy at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 27 April 2009, where Ministers noted the challenges that migration across the Mediterranean poses for all member states.

In addition, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary attends the Justice and Home Affairs Council, where illegal transit migration routes from Africa through the Mediterranean are regularly discussed.

Mauritania: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between Mauritania and the UK. [276201]

Bill Rammell: We regularly assess our relationship with Mauritania, and the political situation in the country, following the 2008 coup.

We remain concerned that there has been little progress towards the restoration of democracy, despite increasing international pressure. We, in line with international partners like the EU, US, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the African Union, maintain working level contact with Mauritanian officials.

The UK continues to fully support the EU in its efforts to restore democracy through the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the French Government on Israeli soldier Corporal Shalit. [275964]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to call for the immediate, unconditional, and safe release of Gilad Shalit, in public and in private. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this most recently in his statement to the UN

Security Council on 11 May 2009. The case of Corporal Shalit was also discussed during an EU Foreign Ministers' meeting in March 2009.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have made to the Palestinian Authority on Israeli soldier Corporal Shalit. [275965]

(2) whether his Department has taken steps since 25 June 2006 to seek to secure the release of Israeli soldier Corporal Shalit. [275967]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to call for the immediate, unconditional, and safe release of Gilad Shalit, in public and in private. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this most recently in his statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009. We have also shown our support to Corporal Shalit's family by meeting his parents on several occasions.

Morocco: Human Rights

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will investigate reports of the torture and solitary confinement of Yahya Mohamed el Hafed Aaza, detained at Ayat-Melol prison. [276306]

Bill Rammell: We are aware that a Mr. el Hafed Aaza has been sentenced to 15 years in prison. At this time we do not know what conditions he is being held in or what he has been convicted of.

Our embassy in Rabat is making further inquiries and will continue to monitor the situation closely in partnership with European colleagues.

Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether representatives from his Department plan to attend the international conference on piracy in Malaysia in May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [275996]

Bill Rammell: A senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office Legal Advisor will attend the Kuala Lumpur International conference on piracy and crimes at sea on 18 and 19 May 2009.

Spain: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of levels of anti-Semitism in Spain; and if he will make a statement. [275618]

Caroline Flint: We have not received any specific reports of serious anti-Semitic incidents having taken place recently in Spain although we are aware of surveys which have suggested a rise in unfavourable views of Jews.

As an EU member state, Spain is a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights and is fully committed to combating discrimination and upholding the rights of minority groups.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for further UN Security Council action in response to the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [275314]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in regular contact with his counterparts in the UN Security Council on the situation in Sri Lanka. Most recently he held talks at the UN on 11 May 2009 with the UN Secretary General, other UN Security Council members and non-governmental organisations. The UK again raised Sri Lanka at the UN Security Council on 13 May 2009, under 'Other Matters', and UN Security Council members released a statement urging the Government of Sri Lanka to extend full co-operation to the UN in order to resolve the humanitarian crisis.

We welcome the continued engagement by the UN, sometimes in the face of opposition from others, and we will continue to look for further opportunities to keep the UN focused on the situation in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his UN Security Council counterparts on the $1.9 billion IMF emergency loan package for Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [275322]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discusses the situation in Sri Lanka with his counterparts in the UN Security Council, most recently on 11 May 2009. However, the International Monetary Fund has not yet presented a programme for Sri Lanka and the UK has not been asked to vote on a programme yet. Once a programme is presented, it will be assessed on its merits and the situation on the ground in Sri Lanka at the time to decide whether it will help the people of Sri Lanka.

Territorial Waters

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in talks between his Department and representatives of *(a)* Spain and *(b)* Gibraltar on territorial waters; and if he will make a statement. [276331]

Caroline Flint: There have been no recent talks between the UK and either Spain or Gibraltar on the sovereignty of territorial waters. The Government are fully confident of its sovereignty over British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) and continues to make this clear to Spain whenever appropriate.

However, the UK has made written and oral representations to Spain regarding European Commission Decision 2009/95/EC. Under the decision, Spain has put forward a site of community importance under the Habitats Directive which encompasses BGTW, including an existing site designated by the UK under the same directive. As the UK is the only member state competent to propose a site covering BGTW, we do not recognise the validity of the adopted site. The UK is deeply concerned that Spain should seek to designate an area of BGTW and that this designation should have been approved.

USA

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on international security with the US administration. [276058]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discusses issues of international security with representatives of the US Administration—including in his frequent conversations with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

He most recently discussed international security issues during his visit to Washington on 11-12 May 2009 where he met with Secretary Clinton, Deputy Secretary Steinberg and other representatives of the US Administration.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters were discussed in his meeting with his US counterpart during his recent visit to Washington DC; and what the outcomes of the meeting were. [276109]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during his visit to Washington on 11-12 May 2009. They had a wide ranging discussion covering key foreign policy issues including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Sri Lanka.

Secretary Clinton and the Foreign Secretary also agreed a joint statement on Sri Lanka which was issued following their meeting.

Uzbekistan: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the human rights position of children employed in the cotton industry in Uzbekistan. [276190]

Caroline Flint: The UK remains concerned about allegations of the use of child labour in the cotton industry in Uzbekistan. We have raised these concerns with the Uzbek Government most recently in discussions with the Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March. Our embassy also remains in regular contact with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the issue of child labour in Uzbekistan.

In order to help establish stronger child labour monitoring systems our embassy in Tashkent is supporting a project that estimates the prevalence of child labour in remote rural cotton growing areas of Uzbekistan. The project aims to prevent child labour through informal education and vocational training. We have also welcomed Uzbekistan's recent ratification of the International Labour Organisation Conventions on the minimum age of employment and on the worst forms of child labour, and stand ready to work with the Uzbek Government to implement its international obligations in this regard.

We remain concerned at the overall level of respect for human rights in Uzbekistan, and regularly raise these concerns through a critical, but constructive dialogue with the Uzbek authorities in Tashkent and in discussions with the Uzbek Embassy in London. In addition, the EU has a comprehensive human rights dialogue with Uzbekistan, which includes a focus on the need for further progress in Uzbek promotion and protection of human rights. The third round of talks is due to take place on 10 June 2009.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England there were in each of the last 10 years; and how many such applicants were domiciled in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland. [271019]

Mr. Lammy: The information is given in the tables. The figures cover students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS. UCAS does not cover applications to part-time undergraduate or postgraduate courses, or students who apply directly to institutions.

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCAS UK domiciled students

	Home domicile of student				
Year of entry	*England*	*Northern Ireland*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Grand total*
1998	298,923	8,088	6,936	13,053	327,000
1999	296,081	7,617	6,781	12,546	323,025
2000	295,555	7,219	6,748	12,174	321,696
2001	302,400	6,927	5,965	12,272	327,564
2002	302,698	6,762	5,472	11,962	326,894
2003	309,561	7,114	5,407	12,273	334,355
2004	314,556	7,813	5,064	12,001	339,434
2005	342,927	8,836	5,281	12,675	369,719
2006	329,842	8,545	5,120	12,060	355,567
2007	350,127	9,068	5,032	11,950	376,177
2008	389,065	8,833	4,774	12,145	414,817

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCAS UK domiciled students

	Home domicile of student				
Year of entry	*England*	*Northern Ireland*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Grand total*
1998	234,828	2,359	2,174	6,478	245,839
1999	239,573	2,250	2,149	6,388	250,360
2000	243,347	2,129	2,177	6,262	253,915
2001	257,705	2,229	2,109	6,527	268,570
2002	262,657	2,171	2,064	6,365	273,257
2003	263,958	2,613	1,989	6,423	274,983
2004	263,773	2,833	1,799	6,102	274,507
2005	287,909	3,174	1,881	6,324	299,288
2006	277,237	2,995	1,743	5,434	287,409

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCAS
UK domiciled students

	Home domicile of student				
Year of entry	*England*	*Northern Ireland*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Grand total*
2007	294,533	3,203	1,754	5,306	304,796
2008	330,400	3,214	1,774	5,491	340,879

Notes on UCAS applicant data:
1. The applicant figures cover applicants submitting one or more applications to an English institution (up to 2007 each applicant could submit up to six applications, this was reduced to five from 2008). Students in this table applying to English institutions may also have applied to institutions in one or more of the other home countries, and some may have been accepted to institutions in those countries.
2. In 2008 the Nursing and Midwifery Admissions System (NMAS) was subsumed in to the UCAS application system and part of the increase from 2007 to 2008 can be attributed this factor. There were 14,184 applicants who were accepted to former NMAS courses, the majority of whom were English domiciled (and NMAS was only for English institutions).
Source:
UCAS

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of students studying for a higher education qualification in a further education college in 2007-08 were *(a)* directly funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, *(b)* funded via a university and *(c)* funded by the Learning and Skills Council; and what proportion of the total number of higher education students in England in that year each represents. [273072]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is given in the table.

Higher education enrolments by source of funding: English Further education colleges[1] academic years 2005/06[2] and 2007/08[3]

	Number	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Proportion of all higher education enrolments[4] (percentage)*
Total higher education enrolments at further education colleges[5]	172,160	100.0	8.4
Of which:			
Directly funded by HEFCE[6]	52,775	30.7	2.6
Funded via a University[2,7]	50,015	29.1	2.4
Funded by LSC	47,140	27.4	2.3

[1] The figures have not been adjusted for colleges that transferred during this period from the FE to the HE sector, or for those which merged with HE institutions.
[2] Funded via a university figures come from the 2005/06 HESA record and were provided by HEFCE analysts. 2006/07 and 2007/08 HESA data are available but the equivalent analysis has not yet been performed by HEFCE. Therefore proportions given in the table for students funded via a university are estimates based on earlier data, and may not reflect 2007/08 actual proportions.
[3] 2007/08 data are provisional. The final 2007/08 data will be available in January 2010.
[4] All Higher Education enrolments cover Higher Education enrolments at Further Education Colleges plus Higher Education enrolments at Higher Education Institutions. The underlying Higher Education Institution data come from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and are on a DIUS whole year count basis. Includes students registered by an English HE institution that are taught at any UK FE college (not just English FE colleges).
[5] Includes students with other sources of funding, therefore the sum of HEFCE funded, funded via a university and LSC funded will not sum to the number of all enrolments; likewise the proportions will not sum to 100 per cent.
[6] Includes students funded via a HEFCE-recognised funding consortium led by an HE institution.
[7] Includes students registered at any English HE institution, this includes HE colleges as well as universities.
Notes:
1. [illegible]R figures are on a DIUS whole year count basis, which counts students enrolled at any point in the academic year.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five and proportions have been rounded to one decimal place.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR) apart from funded via a University figures which are from the 2005/06 Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to reply to question 245558, on Islamic Studies outside the Islamic world, tabled on 16 December 2008 and transferred from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 12 January 2009. [276447]

Mr. Lammy: Since the Government designated Islamic studies as a strategically important subject in 2007, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), following a period of research and consultation, has been working with other funding agencies in the UK to develop a programme of work designed to address its strategic importance and to provide additional support for it as a subject in UK higher education.

HEFCE research and consultation showed that Islamic studies scholars are often relatively isolated experts affiliated to different departments, with weak links to scholars doing related work at other institutions.

HEFCE is, for this reason, funding a national network to bring the community of Islamic studies scholars closer together.

This network aims to provide information on courses and staff, facilitate events, seminars and exchange of ideas, and enable academics to connect. The network will be managed through a website and complemented by a programme to digitise Islamic studies resources developed by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

The Higher Education Academy has been funded for a short development phase to plan and develop the national network, which we expect to be operational from the autumn.

Although a national network, the web facility and international links within the UK academic community should further enrich this work and strengthen the UK's position as a leading centre for the study of the subject.

Further details can be found on HEFCE's website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/aboutus/sis/islamic/

UK network and digitisation programme

In January 2009, HEFCE awarded £95,000 to the Higher Education Academy to work with the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) on the development of a full business case for an Islamic studies UK network. We expect that this work will inform a further three-year implementation phase.

HEFCE has awarded £350,000 to the JISC Digitisation Programme to support two specific strands of work relating to the digitisation of resources for use in Islamic studies research and teaching. This is based on recommendations in Exeter University's 2008 "Review of User Requirements for Digitised Resources in Islamic Studies".

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263111]

Mr. McFadden: During the period 1 February 2008 to 28 February 2009, this Department's records show that 71 items were reported as lost or stolen on the BERR central London estate with an estimated total replacement value of £13,500. Of these, 17 items were subsequently found with an estimated replacement value of £1,000.

In addition to the above, during the period 1 March 2009 to 30 April 2009, a further 16 items were reported lost or stolen with an estimated total replacement value of £4,400. One of these items was subsequently found with an estimated value of £50.00.

This figure includes small, low value personal items reported lost or stolen as well as a small number of mobile phones, multi media equipment and other electrical accessories.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Central Office of Information received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [258009]

Mr. Watson: An element of the Cabinet Office's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives. Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

For details of the cost of end of year non-consolidated variable payments in 2004 to 2007 I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on:

2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 901W, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1185W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Details of total paybill and headcount for each year can be found in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts, which are published on the Cabinet Office website.

We would not normally give out information pertaining to an individual's remuneration. However, the average senior civil service non-consolidated award paid by the Cabinet Office over the past five years is:

	Average non-consolidated award (£)
2008	9,260
2007	7,280
2006	6,820
2005	4,520
2004	5,000

I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information (COI) to write to the hon. Member with the information relating to COI.

Copies of the COI letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Disadvantaged

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if his Department will commission research on the relationship between levels of public spending and levels of deprivation across the UK. [275545]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

We conduct regular research on regeneration and economic development including the impact of government programmes on the most deprived areas, and publish research reports regularly on our website. Other Government Departments undertake and publish similar research.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to answer question 270079 tabled on 17 April 2009, about special advisers; and if he will make a statement. [275605]

Mr. Byrne: A response has been sent to the hon. Member.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average rate of interest is being paid on the 30 Building Schools for the Future contracts which had been signed with the private sector by the end of March 2009. [275629]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* There were 18 signed projects at the end of March 2009 involving private finance; the average all-in rate of interest was 5.88 per cent.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what rate of interest is being charged by the Government on the £2.4 billion set aside as the additional HM Treasury contribution to private finance initiative schemes in the Building Schools for the Future programme. [275630]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* The rate of interest to be charged by the Treasury's Infrastructure Finance Unit (TIFU) to assist Building Schools for the Future PFI projects is not set in advance. It will lend on a commercial basis and at rates applicable in the market at the time of financial close of a project.

The £2.4 billion relates to the value of BSF PFI projects in procurement at the time of the announcement according to figures provided to HMT as part of the pre-Budget PFI data collection exercise.

Not every project is expected to require assistance, only those projects which cannot secure debt finance on acceptable terms.

Cam House School Dursley

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has received a proposal from Gloucestershire county council to change the status of Cam House school. [276216]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I can confirm that the Secretary of State has not, to date, received a copy of a statutory proposal notice relating to Cam House school.

When the school was placed in special measures the local authority (LA) temporarily suspended residential provision. Should the LA decide to permanently close residential provision then it would be considered as a prescribed alteration and the authority would be obliged to follow statutory procedures relating to school organisation.

The LA received approval from the Secretary of State on 13 February 2009 to set up an Interim Executive Board for the school.

Primary Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what forecast he has made of the number of children there will be in primary schools in each year to 2031. [276295]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* The Department's current estimates for the number of full-time equivalent pupils in education in maintained primary schools in England are shown in the following table:

Projected numbers of pupils (in thousands)[1, 2] in maintained primary schools

As at January	*Primary schools pupils*
2009	3,954
2010	3,980
2011	4,035
2012	4,110
2013	4,201
2014	4,300
2015	4,387
2016	4,462
2017	4,528

[1] Full-time equivalents, counting each part-time pupil as 0.5. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest one thousand.

[2] Experience has shown that totals in maintained primary schools are usually within ±0.2 per cent. for the first projected year. There is less certainty in the longer term. Factors which contribute to differences between projections and outturn data include the underlying population trends, participation among under fives and variations of proportions attending independent schools. Projections are increasing in uncertainty.

Updated projections for the number of pupils in primary and nursery schools are due to be published in the departmental annual report on 8 June 2009. These will take into account the provisional annual school census figures for January 2009. Projections are not shown beyond 2017 because of the increasing degree of uncertainty over time.

Secondary Education

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils entered state secondary schools in each local authority in year 7 in September 2008; how many and what percentage of these pupils entered schools selecting other than via banding systems *(a)* wholly by academic ability, *(b)* partly by academic ability and *(c)* by aptitude; and how many of them transferred to state secondary schools from primary schools in the private sector. [274440]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold data on the number of pupils who entered state secondary schools in September 2008. The latest available data about the number of admissions to schools can be accessed in the statistical first release (SFR) "Admission Appeals for Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools in England, 2006/07"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000789/index.shtml (table 3).

Data for 2007/08 are due to be published in late June.

The Department also collects data about offers of secondary school places. The data on offers made in March 2008 (which will relate to the number of pupils who entered state secondary schools in September 2008) can be accessed in the SFR "Secondary School Applications and Offers"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000791/index.shtml.

These figures are likely to have changed slightly by September for a number of reasons, such as appeals being successful, children moving home and late applications being processed. However, local authorities are not required to submit updated data in September.

The Department does not collect data on the admission arrangements applied to determine which school places are offered, or on the number of children that have transferred to state secondary schools from primary schools in the independent sector.

Teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* head teachers, *(b)* deputy head teachers, *(c)* other teaching staff and *(d)* non-teaching staff were suspended from duties in each local authority area to each of the last three years for which figures are available. [276217]

Jim Knight: The operation of disciplinary procedures in schools, including those that result in suspension, is a matter for local determination. Accordingly the information requested about the suspension of teaching and non-teaching staff is not held centrally.

Young Offender Institutions: ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many and what proportion of computers in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* secure training centres malware was detected in 2008. [275422]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is responsible for overseeing the management of services in young offender institutions. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is responsible for monitoring the services provided by contractors in secure training centres.

Neither NOMS nor the YJB have received any reports of malware being detected in young offender institutions or secure training centres in 2008.

Young Offenders: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people were in young offender institutions in Essex in each of the last five years. [274240]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Available information provided in the following table shows the number of 15-17 year olds and young adults under sentence in prison establishments in Essex as at the end of June 2003 to June 2007 (latest available).

Young adults are those aged 18-20 and those 21 year olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population.

Population in prison establishments in Essex, under sentence, by age group 15-20, 2003-07

	As at 30 June each year				
	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]	2007
Bullwood Hall[1]	114	108	105	0	0
Chelmsford	110	130	120	142	199

[1] HMP Bullwood Hall previously a female prison was re-roled to take male Category C inmates only. The young offender institution unit and the female juvenile institution unit at HMP Bullwood Hall closed and stopped taking inmates.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Armed Forces: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of allowing members of the armed forces to claim single household council tax rebate for married quarters when posted to other military establishments in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [276158]

John Healey: A dwelling (including married quarters) of which the Secretary of State for Defence is the owner, held for the purposes of armed forces accommodation, is exempt from council tax under Class O of the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order 1992 (SI. 1992/558). A local authority therefore cannot issue a council tax demand notice in respect of such a property, and the question of single person discount does not arise.

The Ministry of Defence pays a contribution in lieu of council tax to local authorities in respect of the totality of the dwellings on each of its estates, in an amount broadly equivalent to the amount of tax that would otherwise be due. As part of the terms and conditions under which service personnel occupy such quarters, an amount is recovered by the Ministry from the occupiers. The detail of those arrangements is determined by the Secretary of State for Defence.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the Government plans to promote the UK as a standard setter for Islamic studies outside the Islamic world, as referred to on page 4 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism: A Strategy for Delivery. [245558]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Since the Government designated Islamic studies as a strategically important subject in 2007, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), following a period of research and consultation, has been working with other funding agencies in the UK to develop a programme of work designed to address its strategic importance and to provide additional support for it as a subject in UK higher education.

HEFCE research and consultation showed that Islamic studies scholars are often relatively isolated experts affiliated to different departments, with weak links to scholars doing related work at other institutions.

HEFCE is, for this reason, funding a national network to bring the community of Islamic studies scholars closer together.

This network aims to provide information on courses and staff, facilitate events, seminars and exchange of ideas, and enable academics to connect. The network will be managed through a website and complemented by a programme to digitise Islamic studies resources developed by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

The Higher Education Academy has been funded for a short development phase to plan and develop the national network, which we expect to be operational from the autumn.

Although a national network, the web facility and international links within the UK academic community should further enrich this work and strengthen the UK's position as a leading centre for the study of the subject.

Further details can be found on HEFCE's website at

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/aboutus/sis/islamic/

UK network and digitisation programme

In January 2009, HEFCE awarded £95,000 to the Higher Education Academy to work with the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) on the development of a full business case for an Islamic studies UK network. We expect that this work will inform a further three-year implementation phase.

HEFCE has awarded £350,000 to the JISC Digitisation Programme to support two specific strands of work relating to the digitisation of resources for use in Islamic studies research and teaching. This is based on recommendations in Exeter University's 2008 "Review of User Requirements for Digitised Resources in Islamic Studies".

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessors spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [274554]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors incurred the following expenditure on building maintenance across the headquarters estate during the last five financial years:

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	1,693,230
2005-06	2,075,079
2006-07	1,646,722
2007-08	1,564,742
2008-09	1,713,495

The Department and its predecessors had not maintained records of their agencies' and arms length bodies' maintenance spend. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which services her Department and its predecessor have outsourced in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [274452]

John Healey: The Department has outsourced its information technology and payroll services in the last five years.

Departmental ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many and what proportion of computers in her Department malware was detected in 2008. [275394]

John Healey: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm information on the number of malicious attacks against their IT systems.

Communities and Local Government complies with Mandatory Requirement 39 of the Security Policy Framework which requires a policy on managing risks posed by all forms of malicious software ('malware').

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275259]

John Healey: The Communities and Local Government total pay bill was £93,582,821, of which 0.63 per cent. was used for non-consolidated performance payments to staff. For the 2008-09 financial year non-consolidated performance payments of £428,157 were made to staff and £856,392 to senior civil servants.

All non-consolidated payments above are funded within existing pay bill controls and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

The non-consolidated performance pay pot made to senior civil servants is based on the recommendations by the independent senior salaries review body. The Government has responded to current economic conditions by freezing the size of the SCS non-consolidated pot.

Communities and Local Government do not hold information centrally on non-consolidated payments made to staff within its agencies.

Derelict Land

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies spent on acquiring surplus public sector land in each of the last five years; and what estimate has been made of the monetary value of such land. [274829]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies have spent about £612 million on acquiring surplus public sector land sites since 2004. A number of the sites have since been sold and the estimated current value of the remaining sites purchased since 2004 that remain in HCA ownership is estimated to be £207 million as at March 2009. More detailed information cannot be provided without disproportionate costs.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many surplus public sector land sites were purchased by the

Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; and how many hectares of land on each site were purchased. [274834]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies have purchased around 134 sites covering approximately 2,400 hectares from the public sector over the last five years.

Derelict Land: Property Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many of the sites currently on the Homes and Communities Agency's Register of Surplus Public Sector Land have been assessed as suitable for residential property development; and if she will make a statement; [274830]

(2) how many sites on the Homes and Communities Agency's Register of Surplus Public Sector Land have been on the register for more than *(a)* six months, *(b)* one year and *(c)* two years. [274831]

Margaret Beckett: Nearly 200 sites of the 704 currently on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land have been assessed as suitable for residential development subject to planning approval being granted. Sites are assessed for their development potential when their details are first entered onto the Register.

The Register is a snapshot of current activity and sites are continually being added and removed by the responsible landowning department. Sites are often added to the Register a number of years before they become vacant and available for sale so that prospective buyers have early notification of their availability. Currently there are 704 sites on the Register. Of those 704 sites *(a)* 46 have been on the Register for less than six months *(b)* 89 sites between six months and one year *(c)* 164 sites between one and two years and *(d)* 405 sites longer than two years.

Economic Situation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1498-502W, on departmental conferences, if she will place in the Library a copy of the presentations and handouts produced for the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme workshop on 5 February 2009. [273457]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 387W.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 128W, on energy performance certificates, how many complaints have been received from prospective tenants of *(a)* social and *(b)* private accommodation about a landlord failing to provide an energy performance certificate in each month since the entry into force of the provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. [274795]

Margaret Beckett: Enforcement of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) England and Wales) Regulations 2007 is the responsibility of local weights and measures authorities. There is no requirement for the Department to be informed when they receive a complaint.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 128W, on energy performance certificates, how many fixed penalties for failure to supply an energy performance certificate have been issued to landlords in the *(a)* private and *(b)* social sector. [274796]

Margaret Beckett: Penalty notices are issued by local weights and measures authorities who are empowered to enforce the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. There is no requirement for the Department to be informed when a penalty charge notice is issued.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the fees charged for adding assessors to the register of energy display certificates. [275659]

Margaret Beckett: The contract between CLG and Landmark Information Group Limited for operating the non-domestic energy performance certificate (EPC) and display energy certificate (DEC) register makes provision for the lodgement fees to be reviewed at prescribed intervals. The first opportunity to review the fee structure for lodging EPCs and DECs on the non-domestic register arose in March of this year, at which time it was agreed that there was no need for a change in the fee. The next opportunity to review fees for the non-domestic register will arise in March 2012 and subsequently every three years thereafter.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many accredited providers of home information packs there were in each of the last three years. [274837]

Margaret Beckett: There are no accreditation schemes for providers of home information packs.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the completion date was of the most recent independent research commissioned by her Department to evaluate the effect of home information packs on the housing market. [274982]

Margaret Beckett: Independent research into the impact of home information packs (HIPs) was undertaken by Europe Economics and published on 22 November 2007.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to limit the maximum cost to consumers of home information packs. [275016]

Margaret Beckett: The cost of a home information pack (HIP) is set by the market and the Government have no role in this.

Homebuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average income of a tenant purchasing under the Social Homebuy Scheme was in each of the last five years. [270438]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the average household income of tenants who have purchased under the Social HomeBuy scheme in England, by year.

Average household income

	£
2006-07	23,430
2007-08	23,410

Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns from registered social landlords to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

The Social HomeBuy (SHB) scheme was introduced in April 2006, so there are no Social HomeBuy sales before 2006-07. 2008-09 figures are not yet available from CORE.

The household income figures are calculated from the "monthly take home pay" figures, which are based on net earnings from any paid work. These figures do not include income from benefits such as income support, child benefit, child tax credit, or any payments received from the Child Support Agency (CSA).

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the assets sale receipts of the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies were *(a)* retained by the body concerned, *(b)* remitted to her Department and *(c)* remitted to HM Treasury in each of the last five years. [270573]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the agency from Communities and Local Government.

The Homes and Communities Agency has retained all of its receipts generated from the sale of development assets. These receipts have been used to fund the agency's property and regeneration programme.

The Housing Corporation and the Academy for Sustainable Communities did not dispose of any development assets.

The former English Partnerships consisted of the Commission for New Towns (CNT) and the Urban Regeneration Agency (URA). The URA retained all of its receipts generated from the sale of development assets, for use in funding the agency's programme. A total of £345 million of receipts from the CNT's sale of land was remitted to HM Treasury in 2008-09 in connection with the close down of the CNT and the launch of the HCA. It is not possible to disaggregate the proportion of these receipts that relate to the last five years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions her Department has been contacted by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies about the writing-off of losses in excess of the delegated limits set out in its financial memorandum in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [270577]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

The Homes and Communities Agency has not written-off any losses in excess of the delegated limits. The write-off of losses in excess of the delegated limit for English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation can be found in their published Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The Academy for Sustainable Communities did not write off any losses in excess of the delegated limits.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 133W, on housing: low incomes, (1) how much has been repaid to the Homes and Communities Agency in grants as a result of investment partners who are not registered social landlords seeking to sell a property outside the affordable housing sector in each of the last three years; [274884]

(2) how many homes *(a)* in the social sector and *(b)* owned by investment partners who are not registered social landlords which were initially intended for low cost home ownership have subsequently been removed from the affordable housing sector in each region; [274885]

(3) how many requests the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors received to sell properties outside the affordable housing sector from investment partners who are not registered social landlords in each of the last three years; and how many requests were granted. [274888]

Margaret Beckett: In the last three years no grant has been repaid to the Homes and Communities Agency as a result of non-registered social landlord investment partners seeking to sell a property outside the affordable housing sector.

In each region no homes owned by investment partners who are not registered social landlords have subsequently been removed from the affordable housing sector.

No requests have been received by the Homes and Communities Agency to sell properties outside of the affordable sector from non-registered social landlord investment partners in the last three years.

Homes and Communities Agency: Location

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what equality impact assessments the Homes and Communities Agency has carried out on its options for relocation; and what consultation with staff and other stakeholders it has held on these options. [273410]

Margaret Beckett: As a public body, the Homes and Community Agency has conducted an equality impact assessment (EIA) screening on the proposals for restructuring and location; a full EIA is in the process of finalisation and will be published in due course. The impact assessment addresses the equality duty areas of race, gender and disability—in addition to considering the equality strands of religion, sexual orientation and age.

In completing the EIA, the HCA has taken account of consultation with staff and best practice knowledge, in order fully to consider the impact of its decisions on equality outcomes. The HCA is in the process of evaluating feedback from its most recent consultation exercise and this information will inform the full EIA which will be published on the HCA website.

Staff and staff representatives were initially consulted on the proposals for changes in Regional office accommodation on 11 February 2009. This period of initial consultation lasted for one month. Firm proposals were then circulated to staff representatives and staff, for consultation, on 1 April 2009. This further period of consultation also lasted one month and during this time, Regional Directors have been holding group and one to one discussions with staff.

The HCA has also, in recent months, had a number of discussions with stakeholder partners about the options for relocation including my Department, Regional Development Agencies and local authorities.

Homes and Communities Agency: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1505W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, which public affairs firms the Tenant Services Authority engaged; what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* monetary value of each contract is; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the (i) brief and (ii) contract for each item of work. [273455]

Margaret Beckett: The TSA engaged the public affairs company APCO to provide help in developing the core narrative and key messages of the TSA through work in the political environment and to engage key stakeholders to gain buy in and understanding of, and to test, the aforementioned. The brief was also to campaign with politicians to raise awareness of the TSA.

(a) APCO were initially employed from August 2008 to February 2009. An additional three months' work was then agreed, to a reduced specification.

(b) The fee for the initial project was a retainer of £9,500 per month for a period of seven months between August 2008 and February 2009, totalling £76,000. The additional three-month contract was for time spent up to the value of £1,500 per month.

(i) and (ii) I intend to place a copy of the briefs and contract in the Library once we have obtained agreement from APCO and removed any commercially sensitive information.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to her Department of the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process has been. [274855]

Margaret Beckett: The cost of establishing and supporting the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process is approximately 25 per cent. of an official's time and has been met as part of the normal working arrangements of the Department from within existing budgets.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built in each millennium community to date. [274771]

Margaret Beckett: The number of houses which have been built in millennium communities since the programme began in 1997 to date are:

Millennium community	*Completed homes*
Greenwich Millennium Village	1,099
New Islington	179
Allerton Bywater	172
Kings Lynn	109
Telford	53
Hastings	0
Oakgrove	14
Total	1626

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built on surplus public sector land in each of the last five years; and what estimate has been made of the number which will be built on such land in each of the next three years. [274828]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 69-70W. However to clarify, the purpose of the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land is to record sites for disposal that have been identified as surplus, vacant or under-used by Government Departments and their agencies which can be used for redevelopment including housing.

Information on the number of homes built on public sector land since 2004 is not held centrally as the Register does not capture such details. However, the Homes and Communities Agency estimates that since 2004 some 19,000 homes may have been built on sites formerly owned by the public sector. The cost of providing a more accurate figure would be disproportionate. This

estimate will include a proportion of the 59,505 homes built since 1997, referred to in the previous answer of 23 March 2009. I should remind the hon. Member that these figures are likely to under-represent the number of homes built on land formerly owned by Government bodies.

Our latest estimate, as at January 2009, is that about 51,000 homes could be built on public sector sites in the next three years. This will be subject to sites remaining surplus or underused and planning approval being obtained. This forecast is under review and may reduce in the future to reflect the challenging market conditions.

Housing: Empty Property

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of empty dwellings in each London local authority area in each tenure group; and what the percentage change was in the equivalent figures between 2002-03 and 2007-08. [276276]

Mr. Iain Wright: The table shows estimates made of the number of empty dwellings in each London local authority area in each tenure group; and the percentage change in the equivalent figures between 2002-03 and 2007-08.

Estimates of the number of empty dwellings in each London local authority area in each tenure group, and the percentage change in the equivalent figures between 2002-03 and 2007-08

	2008							
	Local authority		*Registered social landlords*		*Private enterprise*		*Total*	
	Number of vacants	*LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock*	*Number of vacants*	*LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock*	*Number of vacants*	*LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock*	*Number of vacants*	*LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock*
London	9,500	2.2	4,930	1.4	71,490	2.2	85,920	2.6
Barking and Dagenham	516	2.7	52	1.5	1,082	2.3	1,650	2.4
Barnet	103	0.9	41	0.6	3,892	3.3	4,036	3.0
Bexley	0	0.0	156	1.3	1,967	2.4	2,123	2.3
Brent	152	1.6	317	2.2	1,802	2.2	2,271	2.1
Bromley	0	0.0	319	1.8	3,298	2.9	3,617	2.7
Camden	308	1.3	123	1.3	2,464	3.8	2,895	2.9
City of London	3	0.7	1	0.3	94	1.8	98	1.7
Croydon	163	1.2	168	1.7	3,268	2.8	3,599	2.5
Ealing	407	3.0	155	1.7	2,515	2.4	3,077	2.5
Enfield	287	2.5	76	1.1	2,177	2.1	2,534	2.1
Greenwich	629	2.6	190	2.0	2,585	3.9	3,404	3.4
Hackney	1,139	4.8	230	1.4	1,967	3.6	3,336	3.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	325	2.5	182	1.5	1,626	3.0	1,734	2.2
Haringey	188	1.2	267	2.7	2,334	3.1	2,789	2.8
Harrow	34	0.7	52	1.5	657	0.9	743	0.9
Havering	442	4.2	55	2.2	1,970	2.3	2,467	2.5
Hillingdon	124	1.2	109	1.9	1,711	2.0	1,944	1.9
Hounslow	271	2.1	34	0.9	1,181	1.6	1,506	1.6
Islington	203	0.8	350	2.5	1,143	2.2	1,698	1.8
Kensington and Chelsea	56	0.8	139	1.2	3,181	4.8	3,396	3.9
Kingston upon Thames	50	1.0	23	1.1	2,110	3.7	2,183	3.4
Lambeth	1,058	3.9	287	1.4	2,433	3.0	3,780	2.9
Lewisham	126	0.6	163	1.0	1,746	2.2	2,035	1.8
Merton	87	1.4	26	0.5	1,618	2.4	1,731	2.2
Newham	698	3.9	131	1.1	3,262	4.6	4,091	4.1
Redbridge	185	3.9	39	0.9	2,129	2.4	2,353	2.4
Richmond upon Thames	5	10.0	124	1.3	1,685	2.4	1,814	2.3
Southwark	1,054	2.6	165	1.2	1,501	2.2	2,720	2.2
Sutton	83	1.2	35	0.9	2,256	3.3	2,374	3.0
Tower Hamlets	222	1.7	418	1.6	2,308	3.9	2,948	3.0
Waltham Forest	168	1.6	187	1.8	3,341	4.4	3,696	3.8
Wandsworth	179	1.0	86	0.9	2,853	2.8	3,118	2.4
Westminster	238	1.9	177	1.2	3,749	4.1	4,164	3.5

	Percentage change in vacants between 2003 and 2008			
	Local authority	*Registered social landlords*	*Private enterprise*	*Total*
London	-4.2	-23.1	-12.2	-12.1
Barking and Dagenham	9.3	-40.2	-18.6	-8.2
Barnet	13.2	-64.0	13.8	14.9
Bexley	—	-17.5	-13.3	-6.6

	Percentage change in vacants between 2003 and 2008			
	Local authority	Registered social landlords	Private enterprise	Total
Brent	-8.4	-7.8	-29.8	-16.9
Bromley	[1]	-6.9	-21.6	-14.0
Camden	-6.7	-30.9	-19.5	-14.6
City of London	[1]	[1]	-33.3	-30.5
Croydon	16.4	-10.2	-28.7	-23.8
Ealing	88.4	3.3	-18.7	-7.0
Enfield	-20.3	-68.2	-32.3	-29.2
Greenwich	20.7	-3.9	7.7	16.5
Hackney	70.8	-66.4	-23.7	3.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	-4.1	-31.9	19.2	25.2
Haringey	-16.8	50.0	-29.6	-21.2
Harrow	-50.7	-16.1	-72.5	-69.8
Havering	16.0	400.0	-2.8	2.5
Hillingdon	-23.0	38.0	-38.9	-35.4
Hounslow	-42.7	-50.9	-19.1	-22.0
Islington	-51.4	12.9	-68.2	-57.8
Kensington and Chelsea	51.4	-50.9	-2.8	2.7
Kingston upon Thames	-35.1	-30.3	-6.5	-6.4
Lambeth	37.8	-30.3	-43.0	-25.0
Lewisham	-46.1	19.0	-39.9	-34.0
Merton	52.6	-53.6	-36.2	-33.2
Newham	23.1	-29.9	69.8	61.4
Redbridge	52.9	-51.9	-11.7	-7.1
Richmond upon Thames	[1]	-38.9	-45.4	-41.2
Southwark	9.1	-26.7	-42.5	-45.3
Sutton	-4.6	-5.4	5.1	6.3
Tower Hamlets	-46.1	79.4	14.5	10.5
Waltham Forest	64.7	19.1	63.6	72.4
Wandsworth	-40.1	-58.0	[1]	[1]
Westminster	-4.4	-40.9	-12.7	-8.4

[1] Large Scale Voluntary Transfer
[2] Not reported in 2003

Notes:
Figures for registered social landlords are for self-contained general needs units only.

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities for 3 November 2003 and 6 October 2008; Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities for 1 April 2003, 2008; Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords for 31 March 2003, 2008.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average annual income of a household taking part in each of the HomeBuy schemes has been in each region in the last 12 months. [272225]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average household income of households purchasing under HomeBuy schemes in England in 2007-08, by region.

	Average household income			£
Region	New build HomeBuy	Open market HomeBuy	Social HomeBuy	All HomeBuy schemes
North East	16,360	14,120	[1]	16,080
North West	15,250	17,620	10,630	15,450
Yorkshire and Humberside	14,790	19,360	[1]	15,600
East Midlands	16,010	22,220	[1]	16,580
West Midlands	16,550	20,060	n/a	16,810
Eastern	20,550	25,340	[1]	22,160
London	24,010	25,010	20,400	24,180
South East	19,630	27,480	19,300	21,260
South West	18,260	22,480	20,270	18,980
England	19,760	23,050	23,450	20,590

n/a = Not available due to small sample size of less than 5.
[1] No sales

Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns from Registered Social Landlords to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

The figures do not include sales through HomeBuy Direct or Rent to HomeBuy, which commenced in 2008-09.

The household income figures are calculated from the "monthly take home pay" figures, which are based on net earnings from any paid work. These figures do not include income from benefits such as income support, child benefit, child tax credit, or any payments received from the Child Support Agency (CSA).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price of a property purchased under each of the HomeBuy schemes has been in each region in the last 12 months. [272226]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average price of a property purchased under HomeBuy schemes in England in 2007-08, by region.

Average property price

Region	*New build HomeBuy*	*Open market HomeBuy*	*Social HomeBuy*	*All HomeBuy schemes*
				£
North East	135,090	111,870	n/a	130,940
North West	132,560	121,210	82,470	129,900
Yorkshire and Humberside	125,100	142,850	n/a	127,440
East Midlands	128,070	130,850	n/a	128,190
West Midlands	141,230	125,240	135,100	140,130
Eastern	166,490	154,430	n/a	162,650
London	221,080	189,990	227,860	218,440
South East	173,840	172,930	153,910	173,520
South West	154,730	149,810	145,580	153,710
England	174,610	163,910	155,860	172,870

n/a = Not available due to small sample size of less than 5.
Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns from Registered Social Landlords to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

The figures do not include sales through HomeBuy Direct or Rent to HomeBuy, which commenced in 2008-09.

The property price figures are based on the total property price, not the amount paid by the purchaser, which could be to purchase a share of the equity in the property.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average level of support has been under each of the HomeBuy schemes in each region. [272227]

Margaret Beckett: For 2008-09 provisional figures showing the average amount of grant per unit paid through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme for each of the HomeBuy schemes in each region are set out in the following table.

Average level of grant per completed unit

English region	*New build HomeBuy*	*Open market HomeBuy*	*Social HomeBuy*	*Rent to HomeBuy*
				£
North East	21,590	22,610	9,000	38,810
North West	26,400	23,670	8,900	44,930
Yorkshire and Humberside	29,520	24,420	9,000	38,320
East Midlands	15,650	24,680	—	22,220
West Midlands	20,810	23,760	7,580	21,160
Eastern	18,240	31,930	13,500	38,770
London	42,650	48,490	12,160	56,320
South East	20,740	32,420	11,650	29,200
South West	14,420	28,620	—	33,690
England	23,340	28,960	7,980	35,940

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency's Investment Management System

Provisional figures indicate that there have been no homes completed under the HomeBuy Direct scheme in 2008-09.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* first-time and *(b)* key worker buyers have purchased a share of a property via (i) HomeBuy Direct, (ii) OwnHome, (iii) OpenMarket HomeBuy, (iv) the First-Time Buyers Initiative, (v) MyChoice HomeBuy, (vi) New Build HomeBuy, (vii) Social HomeBuy and (viii) Rent to HomeBuy since the inception of each scheme. [272817]

Margaret Beckett: The following is a breakdown of purchases from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2009:

Schemes	*Total purchases*	*Number Of which: key workers*
Open Market Homebuy	11,165	4,117
Of which		
Own Home	799	260
MyChoice	3,123	1,026
New Build Homebuy	36,544	4,159

Schemes	Total purchases	Number Of which: key workers
First Time Buyers Initiative	1,867	291

In addition there have been 306 purchases under Social HomeBuy but we do not collect data on key worker status for Social HomeBuy.

For New Build HomeBuy the table shows completions. Key worker figures are derived from the homes completed in specific Key Worker initiative schemes. It is possible that key workers have also bought homes on standard New Build HomeBuy schemes.

For HomeBuy Direct I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1119W.

There have been no purchases under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme, which became operational in July 2008, and enables potential purchasers to rent a home for up to five years before buying a share.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average annual income was of a tenant purchasing a *(a)* registered social landlord and *(b)* local authority property in each region in each of the last five years. [273400]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect information on the income of tenants purchasing local authority property.

For average household income of tenants purchasing registered social landlord properties through HomeBuy schemes, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (PQ 272225).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price paid by a tenant purchasing a *(a)* registered social landlord and *(b)* local authority property was in each region in each of the last five years. [273406]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the average price paid by a tenant purchasing a local authority property under the right to buy scheme in England from 2003-04 to 2007-08, by region.

	Average price paid (£)				
Region	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	20,270	36,020	40,270	45,980	54,140
North West	25,510	30,740	39,630	48,230	53,630
Yorkshire and Humberside	24,100	30,990	41,650	50,280	61,110
East Midlands	35,500	42,540	50,930	60,760	62,970
West Midlands	33,480	46,720	51,960	58,800	60,850
Eastern	58,390	67,170	78,640	87,770	103,160
London	80,570	91,120	107,620	125,960	141,260
South East	67,670	77,510	86,960	92,900	102,830
South West	50,670	56,620	64,790	76,630	79,830
England	42,200	51,520	57,910	67,800	78,130

Source:
P1B returns from local authorities to Communities and local Government (CLG).

For the average price paid for registered social landlord properties purchased through HomeBuy schemes, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today, (PQ 272226).

The average price paid figures are the amount paid by the purchaser which could be less than the total purchase price of the property as usually a share of the equity in the property is purchased.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social homes have been empty for more than six months in each region in England. [274278]

Mr. Iain Wright: The term "social homes" has been interpreted as social rented dwellings let by local authorities or registered social landlords.

Estimates of the number of social sector domestic dwellings empty for more than six months in each region in England are shown in the following table.

Number of dwellings vacant for more than six months as at April 2008

	Local authority	Registered social landlord
North East	1,217	2,507
North West	1,788	4,279
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,065	1,583
East Midlands	533	542
West Midlands	912	2,169
East	712	631
London	5,010	2,962
South East	856	1,209
South West	379	859
England	12,895	16,741

Sources:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities; Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords.

Figures for registered social landlords are for self-contained general needs units only and are vacant properties reported as not being available for letting. Not available for letting has been taken as a proxy for properties vacant for six months or longer as this enables the data to be presented at a regional level. Of the total number of RSL properties that have been vacant for at least six months at 31 March 2008, 90 per cent. were recorded as not available for letting.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets her Department has set for take up of each Homebuy scheme. [274745]

Margaret Beckett: We have not set individual targets for each HomeBuy scheme to ensure flexibility within the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing programme 2008-11.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how frequently local authorities are expected to carry out valuations on social dwellings in relation to *(a)* Right to Buy and *(b)* Social Homebuy purchase prices. [274848]

Margaret Beckett: Local authorities are required to provide a valuation when a tenant applies to purchase their home under the Right to Buy or Social HomeBuy schemes. In the case of Social HomeBuy, they must do so when a tenant applies to purchase an initial share and when they subsequently apply to purchase an additional share.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords participate in the (i) Social Homebuy, (ii) Right to Buy and (iii) Right to Acquire schemes; [274851]

(2) what proportion of *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords participated in the (i) Social Homebuy, (ii) Right to Buy and (iii) Right to Acquire schemes in each year since 1997. [274852]

Margaret Beckett: Landlords are not free to choose whether or not to participate in the Right to Buy or Right to Acquire schemes. If an eligible tenant applies to purchase under either scheme, and meets the scheme's criteria, the landlord is obliged to sell.

The Right to Buy is available to secure tenants of local authorities and registered social landlords and to those assured tenants of registered social landlords who held secure tenancies at the time their homes were transferred from a local authority to a registered social landlord as part of a large scale voluntary stock transfer.

The Right to Acquire is available to tenants of registered social landlords who live in a qualifying property.

For the position on Social Homebuy, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 241W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties were purchased under the *(a)* Right to Buy, *(b)* Right to Acquire and *(c)* Social Homebuy schemes in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [274861]

Margaret Beckett: A table showing the number of local authority Right to Buy sales, Right to Acquire sales, and Social HomeBuy sales by local authority for each year from 1997-98 has been sent to the House Library.

Data source:

Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and quarterly PIB returns from local authorities to CLG

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 133W, on housing: low incomes, what calculation is used to decide how much is paid back by an investment partner who is not a registered social landlord who is seeking to sell a property outside the affordable housing sector. [274883]

Margaret Beckett: The majority of non-registered social landlords developing affordable housing enter into an "Agreed Transfer" grant agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency whereby grant is paid on condition that the ownership of the completed units is transferred to a registered social landlord.

A small number of non-registered social landlord investment partners developing affordable housing enter into a "Retention Model" grant agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency whereby grant is paid on the condition that they retain the ownership of the developed units and manage these within the affordable housing sector. The grant is secured by a rent charge registered against the freehold title of the affordable units and the non-registered social landlord partner would have to seek the Homes and Communities Agency's consent to sell the units.

If the non-registered social landlord investment partner sought to sell a unit outside of the affordable housing sector there would be an element of grant recovery. Where applicable, any increase in value would be recovered.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 133W, on housing: low incomes, how much has been recycled in grants as a result of registered social landlords gaining section 9 consent to dispose in each of the last three years. [274886]

Margaret Beckett: According to the annual returns received from registered social landlords the following amounts have been credited to the organisations' Recycled Capital Grant Fund. Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

	Total (£ million)
2005-06	29.26
2006-07	38.73
2007-08	34.13

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many buyers participating in the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy schemes have increased their shares in the home subsequent to their initial purchase. [275565]

Margaret Beckett: Only New Build HomeBuy, Social HomeBuy and Rent to HomeBuy involve the purchase of a property through shares. Information on the number of buyers who have purchased subsequent shares to the initial purchase is not collected centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to be able to publish data on HomeBuy Direct sales. [275566]

Margaret Beckett: We expect to publish completions data on the new supply of affordable housing, including low cost home ownership, in December. The data will include HomeBuy Direct.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data her Department holds on HomeBuy Direct sales; and if she will make a statement. [275567]

Margaret Beckett: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold data on HomeBuy Direct sales. The Homes and Communities Agency collects data on HomeBuy Direct sales to enable them to manage the Affordable Housing investment programme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Rent to Homebuy providers there are in each region. [275574]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the current number of Rent to HomeBuy providers by region.

Region	Number of providers
East Midlands	11
Eastern	10
London	13
North East	2
North West	7
South East	11
South West	8
West Midlands	5
Yorkshire and the Humber	6
Total	73

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for support under the Rent to Homebuy scheme have been received in each year since the scheme was established. [275575]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 719-720W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding will be available for the Rent to Homebuy scheme in each of the next three years; [275576]

(2) how much has been spent on Rent to Homebuy in each of the last three years. [275584]

Margaret Beckett: We have not allocated specific funds in 2009-10 and 2010-11 for homebuy products, including rent to homebuy so as to allow full flexibility within the National Affordable Housing programme operated by the Homes and Communities Agency. Future estimates levels of expenditure beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the next spending review.

Rent to homebuy was launched in July 2008, and the provisional figure from the Homes and Communities Agency for expenditure in 2008-09 is £88 million.

Housing: Regeneration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what events have been held as part of the Homes and Communities Agency's Single Conversation. [275581]

Margaret Beckett: From September 2008 to November 2008, the HCA implementation team ran a series of seminars which included sessions on the Single Conversation. There were a total of 10 events (nine regional and one national) in this period.

Since 1 December HCA regional teams have continued to engage with local authorities on the Single Conversation but there have been no further HCA-led events with this specific aim.

As the Single Conversation is the HCA's main business process, whenever HCA representatives speak at events and conferences organised by other bodies, they use the opportunity to communicate with stakeholders the HCA's approach to and progress on implementing the Single Conversation.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the budget of the Homes and Communities Agency's Single Conversation is in 2009-10; [275582]

(2) how many local authorities have taken part in the Home and Communities Agency's Single Conversation to date. [275583]

Margaret Beckett: There is no separate budget for the delivery of the Single Conversation.

The Single Conversation is being introduced via a phased approach. The target is a Single Conversation being initiated in half of the local authorities within each region by April 2010 and with all local authorities by April 2011. To date 141 local authorities have begun initial discussions.

Guidance on the Single Conversation has been published on the 12 May and is available from the HCA website and a copy will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/page.aspx?pointerid=e5bfaf8d846a437d87ae0214b5e214fc

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average market value of a property owned by *(a)* a registered social landlord and *(b)* a local authority sold to a tenant was in each region in each of the last five years. [273416]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The following table shows the average market value of local authority properties purchased under the Right to Buy scheme in England from 2003-04 to 2007-08, by region.

	Average market value(£)				
Region	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	35,120	54,820	61,380	66,990	75,610
North West	44,980	52,110	63,290	72,810	78,840
Yorkshire and Humberside	42,210	51,240	64,200	73,310	84,860
East Midlands	57,320	64,960	73,850	84,350	86,810
West Midlands	56,070	70,650	77,140	83,850	86,470
Eastern	89,750	99,750	112,020	120,780	136,930
London	117,760	126,610	137,800	147,110	161,960
South East	103,870	114,150	123,570	129,390	139,720
South West	79,100	85,480	94,130	105,930	109,510
England	66,840	77,180	83,460	92,770	103,470

Source:
P1B returns from Local Authorities to Communities and Local Government (CLG).

For the average market value of Registered Social Landlord properties purchased through HomeBuy schemes, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today, (PQ 272226).

The market value figures are based on the total property price, not the amount paid by the purchaser, which could be to purchase a share of the equity in the property.

Housing: Standards

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings in each London local authority area in each tenure category are deemed to be below the Decent Homes Standard. [276275]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is provided in the following table. This is drawn from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix—Annual Monitoring data from Local Authorities for 2007-08 and from the Regulatory Statistical Return—Annual Monitoring data from Registered Social Landlords for 2007-08. The decent homes programme also covers non decent homes in the private sector occupied by vulnerable households but we do not have any figures at local authority level.

Number of social homes failing to meet the decent homes standard at 1 April 2008

	Local authority housing	*RSL housing*
Barking and Dagenham	7,708	101
Barnet	2,708	346
Bexley	[1]—	1,065
Brent	121	763
Bromley	[1]—	3,175
Camden	10,874	658
City of London	668	39
Croydon	1,464	990
Ealing	3,785	411
Enfield	2,641	432
Greenwich	7,359	1,181
Hackney	7,842	983
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,316	1,021
Haringey	6,758	869
Harrow	2,323	512
Havering	2,982	157
Hillingdon	23	290
Hounslow	0	563
Islington	9,633	859
Kensington and Chelsea	1,354	1,350
Kingston upon Thames	1,323	76
Lambeth	8,951	3,390
Lewisham	9,870	6,354
Merton	4,002	190
Newham	9,629	515
Redbridge	1,281	183
Richmond upon Thames	[1]—	364
Southwark	18,320	1,204
Sutton	2,768	301
Tower Hamlets	6,859	3,774
Waltham Forest	5,576	1,951
Wandsworth	0	1,147
Westminster	0	1,043

[1] Do not own stock.

Lobbying

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will prohibit *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies sponsored by her Department from spending money on (i) lobbyists and (ii) public affairs agencies. [273454]

John Healey: The Department's Executive agencies and NDPBs are required to operate in accordance with "Managing Public Money" and other HM Treasury expenditure rules and guidance.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum amount of equity in a property is that a household must hold in order to qualify for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme; and whether the scheme is open to those in negative equity. [274913]

Margaret Beckett: There are two options available to eligible households under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme—Shared Equity and Government Mortgage to Rent. Under the Shared Equity option a household must have a minimum of 25 per cent. but no more than 40 per cent. equity in their property to be considered eligible. Under Government Mortgage to Rent, a household must have less than 25 per cent. equity and any negative equity should not exceed the market value of the property by more than 20 per cent.

It was announced in the Budget 2009 that the mortgage rescue scheme will be expanded to include households in negative equity where their mortgage and secured debts did not total more than 20 per cent. above the market value of their property. This change came into force from 1 May and demonstrates our commitment to keep the scheme under review to reflect market conditions and scheme demand.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date details of *(a)* the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme and *(b)* the Mortgage Rescue Scheme were added to the Directgov website; and if she will make a statement. [275564]

Margaret Beckett: Details were added to the DirectGov website on the Mortgage Rescue Scheme (MRS) on 16 January 2009 and on Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) on 21 April 2009.

DirectGov is the official Government website for citizens and is designed to provide easy access to information on public services and information, delivered by the UK Government.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rates of interest will be applied by each mortgage lender to mortgages in circumstances where repayments are late under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [275595]

Margaret Beckett: The rules governing the homeowners mortgage support scheme require lenders to maintain the rate of interest that is contracted with the borrower at the time of entry to the scheme. Before entering the scheme the borrower must seek independent money advice to help establish an affordable level of payment, provided that the borrower can pay at least 30 per cent. of the monthly interest due. This should substantially reduce the risk of late or missed payments. Should the

borrower default while on the scheme the standard terms of their mortgage will govern the rate of interest that is applied.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to produce an information leaflet on *(a)* the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme and *(b)* the Mortgage Rescue Scheme for dissemination in bank branches. [275655]

Margaret Beckett: An information leaflet on Homeowners Mortgage Support is currently available on the DirectGov website and has been distributed to delivery partners, including lenders and money advice agencies, for use in branches at their discretion. An information leaflet on the Mortgage Rescue Scheme is made available by local authorities to households who are likely to be eligible for the scheme during the application process, rather than by the lender. Additional information on both schemes is available on the DirectGov website.

Advice on the range of support available to homeowners is also available through a National Homelessness Advice Service (NHAS) leaflet "Are you worried about your mortgage?", which is widely available online and through money advice agencies, local authorities and lenders.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 451-2W, on mortgages: Government assistance, on how many occasions in which an applicant under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been referred to a housing association, the organisation has decided not to purchase the dwelling since the implementation of the scheme; and if she will make a statement. [275656]

Margaret Beckett: The Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme has only been operational across the country since 1 January 2009, following successful 'fast tracking' by 80 local authorities in December 2008. The scheme is one part of a comprehensive package of measures to help households at risk of repossession.

Headline data from the first monitoring returns submitted by local authorities implementing the scheme were published on the CLG website on 30 April 2009 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/repossessions

Based on the January-March 2009 monitoring returns, housing associations did not proceed to complete the mortgage rescue process on eight properties during this reporting period—seven due to the property being in negative equity and one because of the property's condition.

In the Budget 2009 it was announced that the Mortgage Rescue Scheme criteria would be expanded from 1 May to include some eligible households in negative equity. Local authorities are encouraged to reconsider cases previously found ineligible.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 451-2W, on mortgages: Government assistance, (1) when she next expects to publish monthly data on the Mortgage Rescue Scheme; [275657]

(2) when the data in relation to Live Table 1303 on her Department's website will next be updated. [276534]

Margaret Beckett: Headline data for April 2009 from the monitoring returns submitted by local authorities implementing the Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme are due to be published on the CLG website on Friday 29 May 2009 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/repossessions

Similar to the publication of data for January-March 2009 published on 30 April, the published tables will be broken down by Government Office region. Updated data for March 2009 will also be published.

Non-domestic Rates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to collect data on business turnover in order to manage the application of business rates on *(a)* independent, *(b)* chain and *(c)* out-of-town retail outlets. [275639]

John Healey: For the purpose of business rates, the Valuation Office Agency may collect data on business turnover in order to determine the rateable value for certain types of properties. These normally include leisure properties, the utilities and some specialist commercial and industrial properties. The Valuation Office Agency do not normally collect turnover information on retail premises.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to vary business rates according to *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* super output area to encourage business growth in areas of deprivation. [276024]

John Healey: We have no plans to change the current system of uniform business rates under which the same multipliers are applied to the rateable value of property in all parts of England, providing certainty to business. However, changes in the relative value of different sectors and regions are reflected in rates bills, as the rateable value of property is based upon annual rental values and reassessed every five years.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on revenue protection, what proportion of business ratepayers are expected to spread payment of the increases in their business rates. [275778]

John Healey: The Government will publish an impact assessment when it tables the regulations implementing the deferral scheme in Parliament. Analysis of the benefits of the scheme for ratepayers will be included in that document.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on revenue protection, what the estimated cost to the Exchequer is of spreading payment of business rate bills in each of the next three years. [275779]

John Healey: The 2010 Financial Statement and Budget report published figures estimating the costs of the scheme over the next three years. These were:

	£ million
2009-10	-700
2010-11	+335
2011-12	+320

Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by *(a)* the Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies on reimbursable staff expenses in each of the last three years. [275562]

Margaret Beckett: Please refer to the following table for expenditure incurred by the Tenant Services Authority and the Homes and Communities Agency (and its predecessor bodies) in relation to reimbursable staff expenses.

The figures contained in the table relate to staff and board members expenses for each of the last three years.

£

	Tenant Services Authority	Homes and Communities Agency	English Partnerships	Academy of Sustainable Communities	Housing Corporation[1]
2006-07	—	—	1,823,000	26,000	491,575
2007-08	—	—	1,896,000	22,000	437,820
2008-09	81,584	928,000	1,538,000	21,000	287,200

[1] Housing Corporation expenditure cannot be disaggregated between personnel who transferred to the TSA and those to the HCA. As a result, these are quoted in total.

Prisons: Planning Permission

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Thames Gateway Development Corporation will have in respect of any planning application to build a prison on the Beam Park West site. [275961]

Margaret Beckett: Assuming the proposed prison at Beam Park West has a volume of 2,500 square metres or more or covers a site area of more than one hectare, then the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation will have responsibility as planning authority for determining the planning application.

Rent to Homebuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which registered social landlords took part in the Rent to Homebuy pilot; and what contribution was made by each of them. [276141]

Margaret Beckett: All Homes and Communities Agency investment partners are able to bid for grant funding to provide Rent to HomeBuy. Those whose bids have been successful are set out in the following list.

List of RSLs participating in rent to Homebuy

Newlon
Hastoe
Notting Hill
Riverside
Moat Homes
Leicester Housing
Islington and Shoreditch
Octavia Housing
Metropolitan Housing Trust
Devon and Cornwall
Manchester Methodist
Tees Valley
Hightown
Home Group Limited
Estuary
Orbit Housing Group
Chevin Housing
West Mercia
Amicus Group
Spectrum Housing Group
Places For People
Town and Country Housing
Gallions
Longhurst Group
Catalyst Housing Group Ltd.
Plus Housing Group Ltd.
Aster
Sovereign Housing Group Ltd.
Isos
Midland Heart
One Housing Group Ltd.
London and Quadrant Housing Trust
Hyde
Adactus
Aldwyck
East Midlands
Bedfordshire Pilgrim
Yorkshire Housing
Southern Housing Group Ltd.
Circle Anglia
Sentinel Hal
Eastern Shires
A2 South
Somer Community
East Thames Group
Accent Corporate Services
Knowsley Housing Trust
Bellway
Bovis
Gilliford

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households participating in the Rent to Homebuy scheme have subsequently bought the property; and of those how many used each Homebuy scheme to make their purchase. [276142]

Margaret Beckett: The rent to homebuy scheme was introduced in July 2008 to help eligible households benefit from an affordable rent while they save for a deposit for a pre-specified period (up to five years). No households had yet purchased through the scheme.

Right to Buy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the size of right to buy discounts as a percentage of average social property prices in each year since 1997. [274959]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average discount as a percentage of the average market value for all local authority properties sold through the Right to Buy scheme.

	Average discount on sales (percentage)
1997-98	49
1998-99	50
1999-2000	48
2000-01	47
2001-02	44
2002-03	41
2003-04	37
2004-05	33
2005-06	31
2006-07	27
2007-08	24

Source:
Quarterly P1B returns from local authorities to CLG

CLG do not hold figures on average social property prices, so the figures are taken from the average market value of local authority properties sold through the RTB scheme. Around 80 per cent. of RTB sales in 2007-08 were local authority properties, while 20 per cent. are of properties owned by registered social landlords.

Shelter: Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on Shelter: Eco Towns, if she will place in the Library *(a)* a copy of the agreement between Shelter and her Department to produce the literature on eco-towns and *(b)* the proposal from Shelter received by her Department. [273460]

Margaret Beckett: I have placed in the Library a copy of the formal bid for funding that Shelter submitted in July 2008, together with a copy of the updated funding agreement made between Shelter and my Department. This agreement covers the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2010 and relates to the production of publications to provide factual information to local people about the housing situation in and around potential eco-town locations.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 133W, on housing: low incomes, how many applications for section 9 consent the Tenant Services Authority has received from registered social landlords since its establishment; and how many applications were granted. [274887]

Margaret Beckett: Since establishment to 31 March 2009, the TSA issued 1,124 Section 9 consents; of those 371 were private finance consents and 753 were consents to dispose of land/properties or an interest in land/property and in the same period three applications for Section 9 consent were rejected. In April 2009 the TSA issued 95 Private Finance Section 9 consents and 224 consents for disposal. No applications were rejected in April.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of child benefit payments in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [275148]

Mr. Timms: The estimated cost to the Exchequer of child benefit payments is given in the following table:

Estimated cost of child benefit

	£ billion
2008-09	11.3
2009-10	11.8
2010-11	11.8

The projections are based on indexation of the current first and subsequent child rates of child benefit and projections of the number of children in the UK from the Office for National Statistics.

Child Trust Fund: Plymouth

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust funds have been established for children resident in Plymouth, Sutton constituency. [276357]

Ian Pearson: The most recent constituency level statistics on child trust fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

Crown Estate Commissioners

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 717W, on the Crown Estate Commissioners, for what reasons the Crown Estate has not purchased any voluntary home condition reports. [275774]

Angela Eagle: The Crown Estate has not purchased any voluntary home condition reports in respect of residential sales to date because they have received no specific requests for them from would be buyers.

Economic Situation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect of the recession on *(a)* blue and *(b)* white collar workers. [275769]

Angela Eagle: The UK labour market has weakened as the economy turned down through 2008. The Workforce Jobs Survey points to manufacturing, distribution and business services as the sectors where the number of jobs has fallen the most. Although the Office for National Statistics does produce estimates of claimant count unemployment by occupational category these do not provide specific estimates of employment of, "blue collar" and "white collar" workers.

Equity Release

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* research and *(b)* investigations the Financial Services Authority has conducted into local authority home appreciation loans. [275799]

Ian Pearson: None. Local authority loans do not fall within the FSA's remit. Where a local authority equity loan is combined with a conventional loan from a lender, the FSA would regulate only the lender part, not the local authority part.

European Union

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the effects on the *(a)* public purse and *(b)* economy of the UK's membership of the EU for the 2009-10 financial year. [275484]

Ian Pearson: The Government's latest forecast of UK net expenditure transfers to EC institutions in 2009-10 was published in Table C9 (page 238) of the 2009 Budget (HC 407).

The Single Market will continue to be a key driver for the UK economy in 2009-10 in particular in moving towards recovery, given the European Union's prominence as the UK's major trading partner.

Excise Duties: Diesel Fuel

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an impact assessment was produced in relation to the guidelines issued in January 2008 on local authorities using red diesel in agricultural vehicles. [275753]

Angela Eagle: An impact assessment on the changes to the schedule of vehicles entitled to use rebated gas oil (red diesel) was published in December 2006, and is available on HMRC's website (www.hmrc.gov.uk). A memorandum of agreement published in January 2008 clarified this legislation in relation to agricultural vehicles.

Financial Institutions: Debt Collection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Financial Services Authority has produced guidance for financial institutions on their use of bailiffs to collect unpaid debts. [275868]

Ian Pearson: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. The FSA will respond to the hon. Member directly

Government Departments: National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons *(a)* employees of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and of the Department for International Development deployed overseas pay Class 3 national insurance after 12 months and *(b)* military employees deployed overseas pay Class 1 national insurance; and what consideration he has given to equalising their national insurance treatments. [273734]

Mr. Timms: Employees of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development deployed overseas, in common with most ordinary employees, are kept in the UK's social security system and pay Class 1 National Insurance by the UK's extensive network of international agreements. However, where they are sent abroad to countries where there are no agreements then they will no longer be entitled to pay Class 1 National Insurance after 52 weeks. After this period they can, if they meet certain residence conditions, choose to protect their UK basic state pension and entitlement to bereavement benefit cover, by paying Class 3 National Insurance.

There are special rules for certain groups, such as HM Forces that have no choice but to work outside the UK when required. Social security cover is vital as the nature of their work may be hazardous. These rules keep them in the UK Social Security scheme, paying Class 1 National Insurance Contributions towards the full range of social security benefits. Without this, such groups would need potentially expensive private insurance for themselves and their families, or could be left without income replacement when subsequently sick, disabled or unemployed.

The Government have no plans to change the National Insurance treatments of these two groups when deployed overseas.

Income Support: Mortgages

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been assisted by the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme. [276471]

Margaret Beckett: I have been asked to reply.

Official figures on numbers of households entering HMS will be published later this year. We are working closely with lenders and money advisors to monitor progress and ensure the scheme is working effectively.

Inheritance Tax: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of residents of Tamworth constituency who paid inheritance tax in 2008-09 who would have paid inheritance tax if the threshold had been increased to £1 million. [274135]

Mr. Timms: Estimated numbers of estates paying inheritance tax are not available at local levels.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 9 February 2009, on mortgages and interest rates, PQ reference: 1/67151/2009. [275840]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 27 November 2008 from the hon. Member for Wycombe concerning his constituent, Armitabh Naik. [276446]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Pensions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of giving pensioners the ability to divide their pension between current income and capital as they wish. [275673]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The Government provide generous pensions tax relief to support saving to produce an income in retirement. These generous reliefs include the ability to take up to 25 per cent. of a pension fund as a tax free lump sum. The remainder should be used to produce an income throughout retirement. Where funds are considered small the member may be able to take the whole fund as a lump sum. These rules are regularly reviewed.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what planning applications were made by his Department between May 1997 and May 1998; and for what purpose in each case. [275766]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 899W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Steering Committee on Harmonisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the *(a)* 47th and *(b)* 48th meeting of the Steering Committee on Harmonisation (Practice and Procedure) England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. [275754]

Mr. Timms: For minutes of the 47th meeting of the Steering Committee on Harmonisation I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1923W, to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill).

A copy of the minutes of the 48th meeting of the Steering Committee has been placed in the Library.

Tax Havens: Crown Dependencies

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assistance the Government offered to each of the Crown Dependencies to facilitate *(a)* the completion of tax information exchange agreements and *(b)* inclusion in the OECD list of jurisdictions that had substantially implemented the internationally-agreed tax standard before the G20 Meeting in April 2009. [274395]

Mr. Timms: The negotiation of tax information exchange agreements with other jurisdictions, including the UK, is essentially a matter for the Crown Dependencies themselves. Such agreements are negotiated under entrustments granted by the UK. The UK offers assistance where appropriate and encourages dialogue between the Crown Dependencies and other countries.

Inclusion in the OECD list of jurisdictions that have substantially implemented the internationally agreed tax standard is based on assessments carried out by the OECD.

Taxation: Defence Equipment

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer through taxation on the arms sector in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [275810]

Angela Eagle: The information is not available.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's generic Method of Work Statement. [275756]

Mr. Timms: The generic Method of Work Statement will be placed in the Library.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 262W, on the Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble, whether the Valuation Office Agency holds a copy of the original agreement between Cole Layer Trumble and EDS. [275781]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency does not hold a copy of the agreement.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* names and *(b)* job titles of senior staff of the Valuation Office Agency's installation of a geographical information system working group are; and what the job titles are of junior staff serving on the working group. [275867]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) does not have a geographical information system working group. However, the VOA does have a Project Board that oversees the development of their geographic information system (GIS). Members of the GIS Project Board include the following senior staff of the VOA: Paul Sanderson, Director of Data Strategy and Jon Wrennall, Chief Information Officer. The job titles of other VOA staff who sit on the GIS Project Board include: Business Project Manager; IT Project Manager; IT Business Analyst; Head of Portfolio Delivery; HR Learning Manager.

Valuation: Business Premises

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average rental value in pounds per square metre per year for a *(a)* type 1, *(b)* type 2 and *(c)* type 3 office premises was in England, according to Valuation Office Agency records, in the closest period to (i) April 2008 and (ii) April 2003 for which records are held; [275752]

(2) what the average rental value in pounds per square metre per year for a *(a)* type 1, *(b)* type 2, *(c)* type 3, *(d)* type 4 and *(e)* type 5 industrial premises was in England according to Valuation Office Agency records in the closest period to (i) April 2008 and (ii) April 2003 for which records are held; [275755]

(3) what the average rental value in pounds per square metre per year for a *(a)* type 1, *(b)* type 2 and *(c)* type 3 shop premises in England was, according to Valuation Office Agency records, in the closest period to (i) April 2008 and (ii) April 2003 for which records are held. [275771]

Mr. Timms: This information is not available and cannot be prepared without disproportionate cost. The Valuation Office Agency's Property Market Reports give average rental values for these categories in a number of different localities. National figures cannot be derived from these reports, as not all localities are included and there is variation in numbers of properties in each of the localities that are included.

HEALTH

Benzodiazepines and Antidepressants

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions of *(a)* individual benzodiazepine drugs and *(b)* individual anti-depressants were dispensed in the community in 2008. [276025]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is in the following tables.

Benzodiazepines, British National Formulary chemical name	*Items dispensed in 2008 (thousands)*[1]
Alprazolam	<0.1
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	259.2
Clobazam	160.1
Clonazepam	520.8
Diazepam	4,863.1
Flurazepam Hydrochloride	<0.1
Loprazolam Mesilate	104.2
Lorazepam	898.6
Lormetazepam	92.0
Midazolam	2.6
Midazolam Hydrochloride	58.9
Midazolam Maleate	5.2
Nitrazepam	1,172.8
Oxazepam	180.0
Temazepam	3,122.2

[1] <0.1 indicates that less than 50 prescriptions were dispensed.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

Anti-depressants, British National Formulary chemical name	*Items dispensed in 2008 (thousands)*[1]
Amitriptyline Embonate	<0.1
Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	7,208.1
Amoxapine	<0.1
Citalopram Hydrobromide	8,992.4
Clomipramine Hydrochloride	362.1
Desipramine Hydrochloride	<0.1
Dosulepin Hydrochloride	1,949.2
Doxepin	45.2
Duloxetine Hydrochloride	352.3
Escitalopram	1,271.1
Fluoxetine Hydrochloride	5,034.5
Flupentixol Hydrochloride	191.8
Fluvoxamine Maleate	29.6
Imipramine Hydrochloride	200.9
Isocarboxazid	3.1
Lofepramine Hydrochloride	387.4
Maprotiline Hydrochloride	0.1
Mianserin Hydrochloride	10.1
Mirtazapine	2,437.5
Moclobemide	26.0
Nefazodone Hydrochloride	0.6
Nortriptyline	217.4
Oxitriptan	<0.1
Paroxetine Hydrochloride	1,690.4
Phenelzine Sulphate	23.2
Reboxetine	53.7
Sertraline Hydrochloride	2,128.7
Tranylcypromine Sulphate	12.5
Trazodone Hydrochloride	793.4
Trimipramine Maleate	137.4
Tryptophan	11.9
Venlafaxine	2,390.1

[1] <0.1 indicates that less than 50 prescriptions were dispensed.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

Blood

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on blood supplies of implementing the recommendations contained within the Archer Report on levels of contaminated blood supplies; and if he will make a statement. [276385]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has given careful consideration to the recommendations contained in Lord Archer's report. We expect to publish the Government response to Lord Archer's report by the end of May.

Bowel Cancer: Screening

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what programmes his Department has for screening for bowel cancer; what estimates he has made of the cost of operating such programmes in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many people were screened for bowel cancer during that period. [276414]

Ann Keen: The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme is co-ordinated by NHS Cancer Screening Programmes (NHSCSP) with funding and policy guidance from the Department. The NHSCSP developed the structure of the screening programme, comprising five regional programme hubs responsible for call and recall, laboratory processing of test kits, and the booking of clinic appointments. Each hub links to a number of screening centres within its region responsible for providing colonoscopy services to those with an abnormal screening result.

The first screening centre commenced operation in July 2006. As at 15 May 2009, there are 47 screening centres in operation across England, covering approximately 83 per cent. of the eligible population. The programme costs £1.40 per head of the total population per year. The structure of the programme has developed as planned and full roll out of the programme across the country is expected by the end of 2009.

From 27 April 2008 to 26 April 2009, 2,238,193 invitations for bowel screening were sent. For the same period, 2,159,497 kits were issued and 1,277,519 kits were returned.

Dental Services

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 932-33W, on dental services, what form the consultations referred to took; and when those consultations took place. [275998]

Ann Keen: Barry Cockcroft the Chief Dental Officer wrote to all stakeholders quoted in the previous reply with a draft of the General Dental Services (GDS) Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE) on 2 October 2008. The Department met the British Dental Association (BDA) on 11 November to discuss the proposed changes and incorporated the points raised by the BDA in the GDS SFE, which came into force on 1 April 2009.

Dental Services: Pay

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 932W, on dental services, what consultation on the dental services statement of financial entitlement took place subsequent to the publication of the 38th Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, Cm 7579. [276509]

Ann Keen: Following consultation on the content of the General Dental Services Statement of Financial Entitlements and subsequent to the publication of the 38th Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, Cm 7579, representatives of the British Dental Association were consulted and agreed the uprated figures at a meeting on 31 March 2009, prior to the signing of the directions.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years sought treatment for the effects of cannabis use in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [275919]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on those seeking treatment for drug use are not collected centrally. Data on those in treatment is collected and the following tables give figures for under 16-year-olds in treatment for cannabis, both for primary and adjunctive use, for England only, the East of England and Cambridgeshire. North West Cambridgeshire is not separately identifiable.

The increase in the numbers of young people in treatment for drugs (primarily cannabis) reflects both the growth in treatment services for young people, and our success in getting more young people into treatment, rather than any increase in the actual incidence of substance misuse.

	Primary	*Adjunctive*
2007-08		
England	6,075	2,075
East of England	380	116
Cambridgeshire	23	5
2006-07		
England	5,372	1,609
East of England	294	103
Cambridgeshire	10	[1]—
2005-06		
England	4,723	1,128
East of England	194	57
Cambridgeshire	6	[1]—

[1] Used to suppress figures < 5

Notes:

1. If a client starts the year already in treatment, age is taken at 1 April, if they begin treatment during the year, age is taken at triage.
2. Figures are provided for primary use (the substance that brought the client into treatment) and adjunctive use (a substance additional to the primary drug used by the client).

National data capture on under-18s did not begin until April 2005.

Epilepsy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of arrangements for pre-conception counselling for women with epilepsy. [275874]

Ann Keen: Pregnancy should be planned with expert care and support from an epilepsy specialist. Preconception counselling will include discussion of:

the importance of healthy eating and taking 5mg of folic acid a day;

the possibility of early screening for foetal abnormalities at nine weeks of pregnancy rather than 12;

whether to continue to take anti-epileptic drugs; and

what the risk of the medication is to the baby.

One of the main reasons to have preconception counselling is to have the best possible treatment. Detailed advice on epilepsy and pregnancy is available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/livewell/epilepsy/pages/epilepsyandpregnancy.aspx

Influenza: Vaccination

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of units of anti-influenza vaccines other than those prepared against swine influenza which will be available for distribution in the winter of 2009. [275946]

Dawn Primarolo: Based on current information, approximately 14 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine will be available for winter 2009-10, which is similar to the number of doses available last year. This information refers to the United Kingdom.

Khat

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* teenagers and *(b)* others have been treated by the NHS for addiction to khat in each of the last five years; [276246]

(2) how many *(a)* teenagers and *(b)* others were admitted to NHS psychiatric units for mental health disorders associated with khat usage in each of the last 15 years. [276247]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Maternity Services

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of provision of maternity services in *(a)* St Albans and *(b)* England. [276362]

Ann Keen: In July 2008, the Healthcare Commission published 'Towards better births, a review of maternity services in England' which assessed the quality, capability and efficiency of maternity services in England.

In late 2008, an independent review of maternity services in Hertfordshire was carried out by the National Clinical Advisory Team.

NHS: Standards

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* independent and *(b)* internal investigations into the NHS there have been in the last (i) five years, (ii) two years and (iii) 12 months; [275126]

(2) how many *(a)* independent and *(b)* internal investigations into the NHS (i) nationally and (ii) in Leicester have found that an NHS trust has not acted with due care and attention in the last (A) five years, (B) two years and (C) 12 months. [275127]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected by the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Osteoglophonic Dysplasia

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what medical research his Department has commissioned recently on methods to increase detection rates of development dysplasia of the hip in the first 12 weeks of a baby's life; [275883]

(2) how many children under the age of 10 years were diagnosed with development dysplasia of the hip in each of the last three years; [275885]

(3) what the cost to the NHS is of treating children under the age of 12 years with late-diagnosed development dysplasia of the hip. [275886]

Ann Keen: The number of children under the age of 10 years who are diagnosed with developmental dysplasia of the hip are not collected centrally.

Data relating to the specific cost to the national health service of treating children under the age of 12 years with late-diagnosed development dysplasia of the hip are not collected centrally.

The Department is not currently funding research into dysplasia of the hip in newborn children. However, there has been an Ultrasonography in the diagnosis and management of developmental hip dysplasia trial (UK Hip Trial) conducted at 33 hospitals in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland by researchers from Oxford and London Universities. This found no significant benefits in costs from screening with ultrasound rather than the Barlow and Ortolani tests used currently.

The Medical Research Council, one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research, although not currently funding any research directly relating to developmental dysplasia of the hip, is funding the UK resource of new models of bone and mineral disorders, a £1.86 million research project, which may lead to further understanding of the condition.

Starthere Scheme

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish in full the report provided to his Department on the effectiveness of Starthere as a means of expanding access to information for people who lack internet expertise. [276162]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* The report has recently been received by departmental officials and a decision on publication will be made in due course.

Stem Cells

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to prevent the marketing and selling of unlicensed stem cell therapies to people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and other neurological conditions; and if he will make a statement. [275917]

Dawn Primarolo: Within the United Kingdom, any use of an unlicensed stem cell medicinal product requires the approval of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Organisations involved in collection, processing and storage of stem cells must also have a license from the Human Tissue Authority.

The Department is aware of a growing number of unlicensed and unproven stem cell products that are being marketed from overseas. Regrettably, such marketing falls outside the jurisdiction of the UK. The Department, NHS Choices and the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee have issued warnings and provided advice on their respective websites for anyone who may be considering such 'treatments'.

Surgery

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled for non-clinical reasons in each strategic health authority area in each of the last three years; and what percentage of all scheduled operations this represents in each area. [276250]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on last minute cancellations for non-clinical reasons in each strategic health authority in England are shown in the following table.

A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation.

The number of last minute cancellations is also included in the Care Quality Commission's annual health check assessments.

Number of last minute cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons

	Number of cancelled operations			*As a percentage of all elective admissions*		
Area	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 to date (3 quarters)*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 to date (3 quarters)*
England	52,005	57,382	43,852	0.9	0.9	0.9
North East	2,333	2,567	1,949	0.6	0.6	0.6
North West	8,415	8,973	6,271	1.0	0.9	0.8
Yorkshire and The Humber	5,655	7,183	5,335	0.8	1.1	1.0
East Midlands	4,246	4,331	3,532	0.9	0.9	0.9
West Midlands	4,760	5,587	4,652	0.7	0.8	0.8
East of England	5,633	6,893	4,839	1.0	1.1	1.0
London	8,153	8,662	7,288	0.9	0.9	0.9
South East Coast	3,657	3,518	2,595	1.0	1.0	0.8
South Central	3,670	3,472	2,344	1.0	0.8	0.7
South West	5,483	6,196	5,047	0.8	0.8	0.9

Notes:
1. 2008-09 figures for quarters one to three only. Quarter four will be published on 5 June 2009.
2. Activity figures based on number of elective admissions in the year. This is an approximation to the number of operations.

Source:
QMCO Cancelled Operations, monthly activity return.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 20 May 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department's estate *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent member of staff in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [276133]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm the actual carbon emissions for the DEFRA office estate and carbon emissions per full-time equivalent member of DEFRA staff, for years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are presented in the following table.

	CO_2 emissions from DEFRA offices ($kgCO_2$)	*Staff in post*	*CO_2 emissions per FTE*
2006-07	16,150,226	9232	1749
2007-08	15,530,269	8171	1901

Departmental Water Consumption

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of water consumption on his Department's estate *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent member of staff in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [276132]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm that the actual water consumption on the DEFRA office estate and water consumption per full-time equivalent member of DEFRA staff for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are presented in the following table:

	Office water consumption (m3)	*Office water consumption per FTE (m3)*
2005-06	87,518	6.74
2006-07	77,160	6.53

Departmental Energy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the energy use per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [276134]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Energy Efficiency data for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, for years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are presented in the following table. The increase in energy consumption per full-time equivalent member of staff is a result of improvements to DEFRA's space utilisation and a reduction in staff numbers. DEFRA staff now occupy a smaller footprint on the office estate which has resulted in an increase in energy useCO_2 emissions per FTE.

	Energy consumed by DEFRA estate (kWh)	*Energy consumed per DEFRA FTE (kWh/FTE)*
2006-07	154,005,682	13,036
2007-08	143,645,869	13,501

DEFRA has a programme in place to deliver operational carbon dioxide savings across its estate, with initiatives specifically targeted at improving energy efficiency:

DEFRA has installed 33 voltage regulation units on its estate. This technology significantly reduces energy consumption of a whole building by regulating the voltage level entering the building. Average electricity consumption has reduced by 12 per cent. per site as a result of installing this technology.

Other energy efficiency projects which have been implemented include upgrades to more efficient lighting, improvements to motor energy controls and gas boiler sequencing controls, all of which have delivered significant savings.

Thermal imaging surveys have been undertaken at a number of DEFRA properties. The results of the surveys will inform a programme of works to improve the thermal efficiency of buildings.

DEFRA is currently upgrading its electricity, gas and water meters to 'Smart meters' which will provide accurate and up to the minute consumption data. These data will be used to monitor and identify excessive consumption, providing a focus for strategic consumption reduction. The Carbon Trust estimate that savings of between 5 and 10 per cent. can be achieved through the identification of waste through Smart metering.

To further improve operational efficiency, DEFRA has recently revised its requirements for facilities management (FM) provision to incorporate a more sustainable approach to the FM service. The recent Sustainable Workplace Management contract awarded to Interserve, will further enhance DEFRA's capability to further embed sustainability in its operations.

DEFRA has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme and the entire DEFRA estate, including laboratories, was awarded Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme (EEAS) certification in June 2007.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of waste from his Department which was recycled in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [276273]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm that the actual volume and percentage of waste recycled or recovered by DEFRA, during years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are presented in the table.

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Waste recycled[1] (tonnes)	1,393	1,411
Percentage recycled	27	29
Waste recovered[2] (tonnes)	2,891	2,877
Percentage recovered	55	60

[1] Recycled—waste that is recycled, reused externally or composted.
[2] Recovered—waste that is recycled, reused externally, composted or incinerated with energy recovery.

It should be noted that DEFRA incinerates approximately 30 per cent. of its waste, from which significant quantity of heat and energy is recovered. Current Sustainable Development Commission reporting does not acknowledge energy recovery from waste incineration as recycling or waste recovery under current Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) guidelines.

Departmental Renewable Energy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity derived from renewable sources used in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [276135]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm that the actual percentage of electricity derived from renewable sources, by DEFRA, during years 2006-07 and 2007-08 is presented in the following table.

	Percentage of electricity derived from renewable resources
2006-07	44
2007-08	56

Departmental Waste

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of waste from his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent member of staff in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [276269]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm that the actual waste arisings for DEFRA and waste arisings per full-time equivalent member of DEFRA staff, for years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are presented in the following table.

	Total waste (tonnes)	*Waste per FTE (tonnes)*
2006-07	5,252	0.44
2007-08	4,816	0.45

It should be noted that the waste figure also includes waste generated in DEFRA's laboratories as well as its offices.

Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what date in June 2009 he expects his next six-monthly progress report on implementing the recommendations made in the Pitt report on flooding to have been published. [276240]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As we previously committed, I expect the Government's next progress report on the implementation of the Pitt recommendations to be published in June.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in implementing Recommendation 90 of the Pitt Report on flooding; and what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on this matter. [276242]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government's Response to Sir Michael Pitt's review set out what had been implemented before December 2008 and the further steps required to implement its recommendations in the future. This response committed the Government to report further on implementation every six months, beginning in June 2009. The Government are on target to do this in June.

In April we followed up on a letter we issued last December to all local authorities asking chief executives about progress they have made on the Pitt recommendations, whether they have experienced any blockages or difficulties, and what further the Government can do to assist them.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what provision he has made to ensure business continuity during the transition period from the Marine and Fisheries Agency to the Marine Management Organisation; [275640]

(2) whether any financial incentives are being offered to staff in the London headquarters of the Marine and Fisheries Agency who are unable to relocate to Tyneside to stay in post during the organisation's transition period for reasons of business continuity rather than to seek early redeployment to another Civil Service post in London. [275641]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Robust action is being taken by the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) to ensure business continuity during the period of relocation of its headquarters to Tyneside and in preparing for the establishment of a new Marine Management Organisation. This includes plans for the timely recruitment of new staff to replace existing staff who will not be relocating. This recruitment will take into account the need for some periods of parallel running between the Tyneside and London offices for a number of teams to allow for training and knowledge transfer.

Recognising the need to retain key staff during the transition period in order to ensure the necessary knowledge transfer, the MFA has instigated a 'Transition Allowance'. This will be payable to those MFA HQ staff identified as being in key roles and/or with specialist knowledge/skills who have opted not to relocate with their posts and who are prepared to delay their redeployment to another civil service post. It recognises the need to retain key people within the agency's HQ for an extended period to ensure business continuity and help train new staff.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will ensure that all staff in the new Marine Management Organisation will be eligible to apply for the same posts staff in the Marine and Fisheries Agency are eligible to apply for, with particular reference to posts advertised only within his Department; [275642]

(2) whether staff in the Marine Management Organisation will be eligible to apply for all posts in the Department of Energy and Climate Change. [275646]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is an established scheme by which non-departmental public bodies, such as the new Marine Management Organisation (MMO), can be accredited to have access to civil service vacancies. My officials are applying for such accreditation on behalf of the MMO to become effective when the organisation is vested. Initial enquiries reveal that there is no reason why this should not be granted. This will enable MMO staff to apply, on merit, for civil service posts via the civil service 'Jobs Online' facility.

MMO staff will be able to apply for DEFRA vacancies that are advertised on the 'Jobs Online' site in the same way that MFA staff currently can. Similarly, staff in the MMO will be able to apply for posts in the Department of Energy and Climate Change advertised on 'Jobs Online' in the usual way.

The Cabinet Office Statement of Practice (COSOP) which governs the transfer of civil servants between Departments, suggests that departments should provide an opportunity for staff to return to their original department if they wish. The MFA is currently exploring with DEFRA how this opportunity might be provided to MMO staff in the future.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when the first posts in the Marine and Fisheries Agency earmarked for transfer to the Marine Management Organisation will relocate from London to Tyneside; and when the remaining posts will relocate; [275643]

(2) when he expects to make an announcement of the specific location of the headquarters building for the Marine Management Organisation. [275685]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I hope to be able to announce the new headquarters building shortly.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency is developing a relocation and recruitment plan for the Tyneside headquarters office. Any relocation of existing staff from London to the new HQ site, or transfer of posts to be filled by newly recruited staff in Tyneside, will be progressed in line with this plan. Current thinking is that relocation and recruitment would take place between July and November 2009. This is a broad timeline and some individual relocations may need to happen either earlier or later in order to reflect, where appropriate, personal circumstances.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what provision has been made for *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance for staff in the coastal offices of the Marine and Fisheries Agency who are considering applying for vacancies in the new Tyneside headquarters of the Marine Management Organisation; [275644]

(2) whether his Department has offered financial assistance to headquarters staff in the Marine and Fisheries Agency to relocate from London to Tyneside. [275690]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Financial assistance is being offered to headquarters staff in the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) to relocate with their existing posts from London to Tyneside. This assistance is in line with the relocation arrangements operated in my Department which are derived from, and consistent with, the financial assistance outlined centrally by the Cabinet Office for civil service relocations.

The operational need to provide assistance, financial or otherwise, to relocations sought by members of staff from the MFA coastal offices, will be considered as part of the detailed relocation and recruitment plans being developed by the Agency.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that the future management of the Marine Management Organisation meets commitments given to staff in the Marine and Fisheries Agency, with particular reference to *(a)* trade union recognition, *(b)* training and development opportunities and eligibility to apply for posts in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [275645]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Staff would transfer to the MMO with the contractual terms and conditions applying at the time of transfer under either Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) or the equivalent Cabinet Office protocol for transfers of civil servants between departments.

Rights to trade union representation will remain exactly as they are now and although the issues around recognition and training and development would be matters for the new MMO management board to take forward, there are no intentions to change the existing arrangements. On eligibility to apply for posts in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, I refer the hon. Member to my answer to his previous question numbered 275642.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the minimum time required for the shadow Marine Management Organisation body to exist before vestment of the Marine Management Organisation in order to ensure an effective transition from executive agency to non-departmental public body status; [275647]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that no shadow body for the Marine Management Organisation will be established before Royal Assent has been given to the Marine and Coastal Access Bill; [275648]

(3) when he expects the shadow Marine Management Organisation body to be created; and when he expects the chair and the chief executive officer of the Marine Management Organisation to be appointed to the shadow body. [275688]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The chair, board and chief executive officer of the Marine Management Organisation will be formally appointed following commencement of Clause 1 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act.

In the meantime, I am seeking to appoint a chair and CEO "designate" contingent on the Bill receiving Royal Assent, to assist with the preparations for creating the Marine Management Organisation. There are existing principles which govern the setting up of shadow bodies and the appointments required, covered in Chapter 2 of HM Treasury's 'Managing Public Money' which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_managingpublicmoney_publication.htm.

My Department will operate in accordance with these principles.

I recognise the importance of making these appointments in good time to assist with the creation of the Marine Management Organisation, in line with the principles outlined above. Plans are in place to ensure the effective transition from an executive agency to non-departmental public body status.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days his officials and consultants in the *(a)* Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(b)* Marine and Fisheries Agency spent in (i) Tyneside and (ii) each other candidate location before the announcement to relocate the headquarters of the Marine Management Organisation from London. [275649]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following extensive research undertaken on each of the shortlisted locations, officials from DEFRA and the Marine and Fisheries Agency, accompanied by KPMG consultants, spent a day in each location, including Tyneside. The visits provided further insights into the business and quality of life indicators used to derive the short-list. Information on the findings from the visits is set out in the KPMG report, copies of which are in the House Library.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the *(a)* grade and *(b)* salary is of each post in (i) his Department and (ii) the Marine and Fisheries Agency working to establish the Marine Management Organisation and its headquarters in Tyneside; and when these posts were created; [275686]

(2) which posts attract temporary additional responsibility allowance in relation to the creation of the Marine Management Organisation and the relocation of headquarters; for how long these allowances have been granted; how many have been granted for more than six months; and for what reasons these posts have not been advertised on promotion in fair and open recruitment competitions. [275687]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The work to prepare for the establishment of a new Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and to relocate the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) Headquarters are two separate projects. The relocation of the MFA Headquarters would be taking place regardless of any decisions to create a new MMO. Both projects are being delivered by an Implementation Team based in the MFA. The breakdown of posts currently in the implementation team provided below reflects resourcing of both activities and includes the Programme Management Office.

	Salary range	
	£	£
1 x Senior Civil Servant	57,300	116,000
2 x Grade 6	56,139	67,504
3 x Grade 7	46,184	55,976
2 x Senior Executive Officer	34,336	41,851
2 x Higher Executive Officer	29,191	34,326
3 x Executive Officer	24,439	28,846
1 x Consultant Project Officers	—	—

Support for creation of the MMO, including preparations for cross-Government sponsorship arrangements, is also being provided by a further Grade 7 post based in DEFRA. Some limited specialist HR expertise is also being provided by DEFRA to support the recruitment of staff in Tyneside and redeployment of existing MFA staff where appropriate.

The Implementation Team has changed in size and profile at various stages of the project to reflect changing workloads, but broadly speaking a core project team consisting of six to eight posts has been in place in the MFA since the beginning of 2008-09. Additional resource has been recruited to the project since the beginning of 2009 to support activity during this implementation year.

Three of the above posts are being delivered by members of staff who are receiving Temporary Additional Responsibility Allowance (TARA), all of which have been granted for longer than six months. The decision was taken not to fill these posts permanently with members of staff at the substantive grade required because of the relocation of the MFA Headquarters and the time-limited need of the implementation work.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there have been any recent changes to the timetable for the completion of the vestment of the Marine Management Organisation by 1 April 2010. [275689]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In common with any major programme of this type, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) implementation activity is under constant review with minor revisions to plans, approaches, and specific delivery dates. However, there have been no significant changes to the timetable for vesting the MMO and my officials are still working to a vesting date of 1 April 2010.

Rivers

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on the restoration of riverbeds in each of the last three years. [276261]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the past three years the Environment Agency has spent the following on projects that delivered a substantial element of riverbed restoration:

	£ million
2006-07	0.819
2007-08	1.026
2008-09	1.176

River restoration schemes typically encompass several related activities such as the placement of spawning gravels, removal of debris, tree planting, bank protection and enhancement works, etc.

Rural Areas: Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 381W, on tourism: rural areas, how much funding from

the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 has been provided for support to encourage rural tourism in each region. [276426]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 19 May 2009]*: Each region has set out in published Regional Implementation Plans, the indicative allocation for support for rural tourism over the period 2007-13. Regions have taken different approaches to how these are expressed, but the approximate indicative allocations are:

	£ million
East of England	6.4
East Midlands	2.7
North East	2.4
North West	4.5
South East	5.1
South West	10.9
West Midlands	2.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	3.3
Total	37.8

Source:
Regional Implementation Plans:
www.defra.gov.uk

These figures include amounts that Local Action Groups are planning to spend on tourism through the Leader approach, which are not included in the figures programmed to the tourism measure in the Rural Development Programme document.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 601W, on the blue badge scheme, what progress has been made in developing a project implementation plan for the blue badge reform scheme; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the implementation plan when finalised. [268401]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 2 April 2009]*: We are in the process of finalising the blue badge project implementation plan. A high level plan will be published on the Department for Transport's website shortly. This is being developed to provide stakeholders and other interested parties with further information on each element of the work programme and an indication of the associated likely timeframes for implementation. Copies of the high level plan will be placed in the Library, once published.

We also intend to publish regular Blue Badge Reform programme bulletins on the Department's website to provide progress updates.

Departmental Buildings

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies has spent on (i) refurbishment, (ii) maintenance and (iii) emergency repairs of its office estate in each year since 2001. [276452]

Mr. Hoon: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on office furniture in each of the last five years. [276487]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 May 2009, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) *Official Report*, columns 883-6W.

Departmental Lighting

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* lighting and *(b)* light fixtures in each of the last five years. [276488]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [274698]

Mr. Hoon: The number of staff employed in London on work contracted out by the Department for Transport is 54.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274478]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 780-81W.

The information requested for 2004 and 2005 can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many actions under employment law were brought against his Department in each of the last three years, broken down by category of action; and how many were contested by the Department at an employment tribunal. [275622]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 14 May 2009]*: The total number of employment law actions brought against the Department for Transport in each of the last three years is broken down by category in the following table:

	Category	*Number of actions*
2006-07	Unfair dismissal	5
2007-08	Disability discrimination	6
	Unfair dismissal	12

	Category	Number of actions
2008-09	Disability discrimination	7
	Race discrimination	6
	Sex discrimination	6
	Constructive dismissal	5

In addition, a further 31 claims were brought against the Department during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. These cases have not been broken down further by category in order to protect the confidentiality of the persons concerned.

Overall, 12 cases were contested and decided at a full hearing of the Employment Tribunal.

18,600 people are employed by the Department for Transport and its agencies.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274535]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

M1: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 989W, on M1: speed limits, what his latest estimate is of the timetable for the installation of speed cameras between junctions 8 and 9 on the M1. [276438]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The installation of speed cameras between junction 8 and junction 9 on the M1 is expected to take place in early 2010.

M18: Lorries

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1603W, on M42: lorries, if he will introduce a restriction on overtaking by heavy goods vehicles on the M18; and if he will make a statement. [276437]

Paul Clark: There are currently no plans to introduce a restriction on overtaking by heavy goods vehicles on the M18, since it does not meet the relevant criteria.

As part of the Highways Agency's strategy to tackle congestion, the Agency has considered sites for implementing the HGV lane restrictions. Such sites should meet the following criteria namely; two lane motorway and all purpose trunk roads with gradients where HGVs represent a high proportion of traffic.

Railways: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an estimate of the likely effects on levels of carbon dioxide emissions of the planned electrification work on the rail network. [276020]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working with the rail industry to assess the case for electrifying the Great Western and Midland Main Lines. Electrifying these two lines would reduce rail's carbon emissions by approximately 3 per cent. or 80,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Roads: Accidents

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents there were on stretches of roads with a *(a)* 20, *(b)* 30, *(c)* 40 and *(d)* 50 miles per hour speed limit in each of the last five years. [275831]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents on urban/rural by speed limit of the roads in each of the last five years is given in the following tables:

Number of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accident, broken down by speed limit and rural/urban, 2003-2007 GB

Speed limit	2003				2004				2005			
	Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
20 mph[1]	4	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	7	7	1	0
30 mph	898	74	185	8	787	73	197	9	811	77	179	8
40 mph	164	14	129	6	176	16	137	6	132	13	126	6
50 mph	34	3	121	5	33	3	106	5	24	2	119	6
60 mph	36	3	1,446	63	36	3	1,330	62	46	4	1,300	60
70 mph	71	6	418	18	47	4	364	17	29	3	427	20
All limits[2]	1,207	100	2,299	100	1,082	100	2,135	100	1,049	100	2,152	100

Speed limit	2006				2007			
	Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
20 mph[1]	13	1	4	0	6	1	3	0
30 mph	769	72	173	8	729	75	170	9
40 mph	181	17	143	7	119	12	134	7

Speed limit	2006				2007			
	Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
50 mph	25	2	105	5	30	3	95	5
60 mph	38	4	1,292	61	40	4	1,202	61
70 mph	43	4	386	18	49	5	369	19
All limits[2]	1,069	100	2,103	100	973	100	1,973	100

[1] Includes residential 20 mph zones plus areas where by-laws restrict the speed limit to 20 mph.
[2] Includes unknown and other speed limits.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents in each of the last 11 years were caused by drivers who had been granted a full driver's licence less than one year prior to the accident. [276465]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many children *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in road accidents in each of the last 11 years were not wearing seat belts at the time of the accident. [276466]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Speed Limits

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Highways Agency on the reduction to 50 miles per hour of speed limits on single carriageway trunk roads under the Agency's control. [276296]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Highways Agency has been represented on a Steering Group responsible for the development a new road safety strategy for Great Britain. Aside from the Highways Agency, the Group comprises officials from the relevant Whitehall Departments and from the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly Government.

The work of the Steering Group led to the consultation document on a new road safety strategy which we published on 21 April. This contains proposals to encourage highway authorities, including the Highways Agency, to reduce speed limits from 60 mph on those rural single carriageways roads where accident risks are high, on a carefully targeted basis.

Travel: Personal Records

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has carried out an impact assessment of the Home Office's proposal to give the police powers to collect advance passenger data in respect of domestic air and sea journeys; and what recent discussions there have been between officials of his Department and officials of the Home Office on this matter. [275500]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Section 14 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the police the power, subject to commencement through secondary legislation, to require a carrier, on request, to capture passenger and crew identity and other service data on domestic routes. The Home Office has not yet made a decision to carry out a formal public consultation on the proposals, which would include a full regulatory impact assessment, though the intention would be to focus the use of this power only on crossings between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Department for Transport officials and those from the Home Office are in regular contact on the range of international counter-terrorism issues.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobcentre Plus

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many members of Jobcentre Plus staff in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district participated in (i) Foundation Learning Routeway, (ii) Managers who Deliver—Leaders who Inspire and (iii) the Professional Skills for Government framework (A) in each year since the schemes were launched and (B) in each of the last 24 months; [264268]

(2) how much was *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* spent in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district on (A) Foundation Learning Routeway, (B) Managers who Deliver—Leaders who Inspire and (C) the Professional Skills for Government framework (1) in each year since the schemes were launched and (2) in each of the last 24 months. [264269]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking:

how many members of Jobcentre Plus staff in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district participated in (i) Foundation Learning Routeway (ii) Managers who Deliver—Leaders who Inspire and (iii) the Professional Skills for Government framework (A) in each year since the schemes were launched and (B) in each of the last 24 months.

how much was (a) budgeted and (b) spent in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district on (A) Foundation Learning Routeway, (B) Managers who Deliver—Leaders who Inspire and (C) the Professional Skills for Government framework (1) in each year since the schemes were launched and (2) in each of the last 24 months.

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The new foundation learning materials consist of 14 learning and development products. The suite of products includes elements of mandatory and non mandatory learning and development materials, depending on an individual's job role. Line Managers in consultation with an individual will agree a pathway of foundation learning targeted at addressing their job role requirements.

In April 2008, the foundation learning was reviewed and revised and therefore any historical information would not accurately reflect the number of individuals who undertook foundation learning over the last 24 months. Our systems are not set up to capture this type of management information, and it would need to be compiled clerically, which would incur disproportionate cost.

The Jobcentre Plus management and leadership development programme (called "Managers who deliver—Leaders who inspire") is a relatively new programme that was piloted in September 2007 and rolled out nationally from early 2008. It was designed to incorporate the skills required by the Professional Skills for Government (PSG) framework so the two are inextricably linked. There is no separate learning intervention on the PSG framework itself in relation to the middle managers covered by this development programme, however PSG is a framework that is integrated into the appraisal and development planning for such managers.

The available information regarding "Managers who deliver—Leaders who inspire" is attached at Annex 1. The volumes and costs data is broken down by region and operational arm, rather than just by Customer Service Directorate region and district as requested. This is because the Benefit and Fraud and Contact Centre Directorates do not have the same district based organisational structure. Information on how much was budgeted for this training is only collated at national level.

Annex 1

Numbers of participants in the "Managers who Deliver—Leaders who inspire" development programme in Jobcentre Plus from September 2007 to March 2009

Regions	Contact Centre Direct	Benefit Fraud Directorate	Other Directorates
East of England	31	12	8
East Midlands	28	10	1
London	73	26	1
North East	22	31	3
North West	38	32	10
Scotland	42	13	3
South East	49	26	3
South West	38	22	3
Wales	33	14	4
West Midlands	58	11	2
Yorkshire and Humber	26	6	15
Total	438	203	53

Costs of participants in the "Managers who deliver—Leaders who inspire" development programme in Jobcentre Plus from September 2007 to March 2009

£

	Customer Service Directorate	Benefit Fraud Directorate	Other Directorates
East of England	87,400	29,600	1,800
East Midlands	76,700	26,600	16,100
London	192,300	69,200	1,800
North East	49,800	74,500	8,900
North West	105,100	78,400	12,400
Scotland	118,100	38,900	8,800

Costs of participants in the "Managers who deliver—Leaders who inspire" development programme in Jobcentre Plus from September 2007 to March 2009

£

	Customer Service Directorate	Benefit Fraud Directorate	Other Directorates
South East	168,100	72,500	7,100
South West	94,200	59,100	8,900
Wales	90,900	33,700	3,600
West Midlands	168,400	28,500	37,200
Yorkshire and Humber	69,600	44,200	7,100
Total	1,220,600	552,500	113,700

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what roles he expects the planned additional 6,000 Jobcentre Plus staff to fill. [266130]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves dated 20 May 2009:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what roles we expect the planned additional 6,000 Jobcentre Plus staff to fill. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In line with the recent Budget announcements, Jobcentre Plus will be able to recruit up to 10,000 more staff. This is on top of the 6,000 new staff already announced in Pre Budget Report. Some 6,000 staff have been recruited between October 2008 and April 2009.

All of this new resource will be applied to customer-facing services. More than half of these will be Personal Advisers with the rest in customer intervention and support roles within our customer service operations.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 6 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. H Kennedy. [276506]

James Purnell: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 17 May 2009.

Social Security Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what welfare reform milestones he has set following the publication of the White Paper on welfare reform in December 2008. [266122]

Mr. McNulty: We outlined a number of commitments in the White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support'. I have set these out in the following table.

'Raising expectations and increasing support' White Paper Milestones/commitments

2008	New benefit rules to help lone parents back into work.
	STAR rating results for employment zone contacts.

'Raising expectations and increasing support' White Paper

	Milestones/commitments
	ESA introduced.
	IES trials go live
2009	Housing benefit external review consultation to take place.
	Extension of 'Better off in work credit' if it proves successful.
	Right to bid, bidding process opened.
	Pilot personal health budgets.
	Employment advisers as a core component of the Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies programme.
2009, April	Drug co-ordinators introduced. ESA rate alignment commences.
	Income support and housing benefit extended to 21 for young persons in non-advanced full-time education by April 09.
2009, October	Phase one, FND launched.
2010	Work for your benefit introduced. Level one devolution by 2010, then fully embedded by 2010.
	Employ ability campaign widened by 2009-10.
	A 26 week minimum contribution period to national insurance in order to qualify for new ESA and JSA claimants.
	Progression to Work pathfinders for new ESA claims and lone parents with young children.
	Some level 2 activities with sub-regional partnerships operation by 2010 (joint-funded contracts with DWP retaining management of commissioning and contracts) in order to implement the 'multi-area agreement'. Skills screening fully operational.
	Pilot of the new regime for problem drug users implemented.
2010, April	Full child maintenance disregard in all income related benefits.
2010, October	New Specialist Disability Employment programme begins.
Late 2010	Work-focused interviews extended to the two year point of the claim for new ESA claimants.
2010-13	Migration of existing incapacity benefits recipients to ESA.
	JSA joint claims for couples with a youngest child aged who do not have a child under age seven or over, where both members are capable of work.
	As customers are migrated those under 50 will receive a Pathways to Work style approach and those under 50 will have a less intensive regime plus pilots to seek further evidence on what works best for this group.
	Skills health checks for lone parents.
2011	Right to control, personal budgets to be fully operational.
	Universal information, advice and advocacy service for both people who need services and for their carers, for those who need support to articulate their needs and utilise their budget.
2011, March	Invest to save pilots pathfinders are planned to go live. This will enable us to test out recommendations in the Gregg review, including progression to work conditionality.
	Personalised employment programmes go live. We will explore whether proposals for lone parents with children aged three to six can also be tested in this programme. We will also explore the feasibility of using the Accelerator funding model. These pilots will enable us to trial the conditionality framework recommended in the Gregg review, alongside his central recommendation that support should be personalised depending on need rather than the benefit someone receives
2012-13	JSA joint claims for couples with a youngest child aged seven or over. Income related support payable in respect of couples with at least one individual capable of work, will be paid via JSA only.
	Migration of existing IB recipients to ESA. As customers are migrated those under 50 will receive a Pathways to Work style approach and those under 50 will have a less intensive regime plus pilots to seek further evidence on what works best for this group.
2015	An expectation that where this makes good sense (i.e. will deliver more outcomes) some areas will be operating successfully City regions operating successfully at devolution level 3.
2020	Eradication of child poverty.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2-4WS, on support for jobseekers, from what budget the funding to be made available to eligible customers will be drawn. [276541]

Mr. McNulty: The package of measures announced on 12 January is to be delivered by both the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and is expected to cost £500 million over the two years to March 2011.

HM Treasury provided DWP with an additional £295 million of funding and the Department will fund the balance of its own expected costs through a package of savings, including consequential programme savings.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Age: Discrimination

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to prevent age discrimination against 18 to 25 year olds. [275275]

Maria Eagle: The Government introduced protection from unjustifiable age discrimination in employment in 2006, which provided protection to employees of all ages including those aged 18 to 25. Our new Equality Bill, which had its second reading on Monday, will outlaw unjustifiable age discrimination against people

18 or over in the provision of goods and services and the exercise of public functions. It will also, as part of an extended public sector equality duty, require public authorities to consider the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations for people of different ages.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in the Government Equalities Office in each year since its establishment. [268286]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then a total of 14 BlackBerry's and six mobile phones have been purchased for civil servants only. These purchases were made in the following financial years :

	BlackBerry's	*Mobile phones*
2007-08	7	4
2008-09	6	2
2009-10[1]	1	0

[1] Purchases to date

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many completed cases originating in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* England the Equality and Human Rights Commission has taken up on behalf of individuals since its inception; and how many such cases concerned (i) disability discrimination, (ii) sexual discrimination and (iii) racial discrimination. [273630]

Maria Eagle: Between October 2007 and 31 March 2009, the Equality and Human Rights Commission undertook 203 completed cases on behalf of individuals:

(a) 191 cases originated from England;

(b) Eight cases originated from Scotland; and

(c) Four cases originated from Wales.

(i) 179 completed cases concerned disability discrimination;

(ii) 10 concerned sexual discrimination; and

(iii) 14 concerned racial discrimination.

Three cases concerned more than one strand of equality.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Resignations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff have resigned from the Equality and Human Rights Commission in the last 12 months. [274137]

Maria Eagle: From 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, 34 permanent members of staff resigned from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Equality: Legal Costs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) intervention in the case of *(a)* Basildon District Council *v.* McCarthy and Others [2009] EWCA and *(b)* Baker and Others *v.* Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the London Borough of Bromley was; and which barristers were retained by the EHRC in relation to each case. [274630]

Maria Eagle: *(a)* Baker and Others *v.* Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the London Borough of Bromley [2008]:

Cost—£13,605.00 including VAT

Barristers—Robin Allen QC and Catherine Casserley.

(b) Basildon District Council *v.* McCarthy and Others [2009]:

Cost—£7,840.00 including VAT

Barrister—Robin Allen QC.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Department's press notice of 19 January 2009, on the asset protection scheme, if he will undertake further due diligence in respect of securities identified as triple-A rated before they are included in the scheme. [276234]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury and its advisers are continuing to work with participating banks to conduct due diligence on the assets intended for inclusion in the scheme.

Further detailed information will be provided after the final contracts are signed.

Child Tax Credit: Underpayments

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to inform people in cases where their child tax credits have been underpaid; and if he will make a statement. [275901]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* Tax credits is an annual system which is designed to be responsive to changes in families' circumstances. This is particularly important when income falls and around 355,000 households who were living on a lower income in March are receiving on average £35 more per week in tax credits.

HMRC calculates an initial award for claimants based on their income for the previous year and their current family circumstances. Awards can be adjusted if claimants tell the Department of a change in their circumstances during the year. After the end of a year, HMRC sends tax credits customers an annual renewal pack asking them to provide or confirm details of their income and circumstances. This information is necessary to determine whether claimants have received the correct amount of tax credits in the tax year just ended. Tax credits customers can complete the process by returning the annual declaration and renewal forms or by calling the tax credits Helpline, usually by 31 July. Detailed information can be found on the Department's website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/index.htm

Underpayments are calculated automatically and any amount still due is paid as a lump sum after a tax credits award is finalised and the customer is informed of the amount on their final award notice.

Child Trust Fund: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Child Trust Fund vouchers have been issued in North East Fife constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available; how many accounts have been opened by residents of the constituency; and what his estimate is of the value of those accounts. [276535]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs estimates that 640 child trust fund vouchers were issued in North East Fife to children born between 6 April 2006 and 5 April 2007 and that 450 child trust fund accounts were subsequently opened by the parents or guardians of those children.

HM Revenue and Customs does not have data on the value of child trust funds at constituency level.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of staff in his Department and its agencies received bonus payments in 2008-09; how much expenditure his Department incurred in respect of staff bonuses in 2008-09; what the largest single staff bonus payment was in that year; and if he will make a statement. [270023]

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275246]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* Audited out-turn figures for 2008-09 are not yet available. The Treasury Group's Annual Report and Accounts will include details of the performance payments made by the Treasury Group, divided by its member organisations, and on the performance pay awarded to individual members of the Treasury Board. Performance pay in this context refers to variable pay which is not consolidated into base pay and is non-pensionable.

Finance Act 1987

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reason HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has decided to close schemes permitted under section 58 of the Finance Act 1987; for what reason the decision was made with retrospective effect; what factors were taken into account in determining that the period of such retrospective effect would be seven years; and what the policy of HMRC is on charging interest on sums owed as a result of retrospective closure; [276192]

(2) what impact assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the effect of the retrospective closure of schemes permitted under section 58 of the Finance Act 1987; and if he will assess the effects of the closure on the financial situation of households operating such schemes. [276193]

Mr. Timms: Section 62 Finance (No. 2) Act 1987 retrospectively restored the principle that double taxation treaties do not affect a UK resident's liability to UK tax on their income or gains. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not believe that any tax avoidance schemes were permitted under that legislation—although the tax avoidance schemes in question here purported to circumvent it.

Evidence emerged that a large number of people were using the scheme and in light of a number of factors (including the widespread use, aggressive nature and artificiality of the scheme, the deliberate attempt to flout the clear intention of Parliament in 1987 and the need to ensure fairness and certainty for all taxpayers), the Government introduced legislation at section 58 Finance Act 2008 to put beyond doubt that none of the schemes worked—and never had done.

Although, like the 1987 legislation, it is indefinitely retrospective, HMRC is not aware of any relevant schemes prior to 2001. Any tax paid late will be subject to interest in accordance with the relevant legislation on late payments.

Formal impact assessments are not published in respect of measures where the impact is only on those who are avoiding tax and thus one was not published for this particular measure. Such decisions on the production of an impact assessment are taken on a case-by-case basis. As indicated in the 2008 Financial Statement and Budget Report, it is estimated that the tax at stake on the schemes that purported to circumvent the 1987 legislation is around £200 million. Those who used those schemes are, like all other UK taxpayers, required to pay tax on the profits that they earned.

Financial Markets: Credit

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what oversight his Department exercises over credit default swap contracts with consortia in which it has a financial stake; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such oversight; if he will consider the merits of introducing independent scrutiny of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [272316]

Ian Pearson: The Government's shareholdings in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds) are managed on a commercial basis by an arm's length company, UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition.

The framework document between HM Treasury and UKFI sets a requirement that UKFI will not intervene in the day-to-day management decisions or operational decisions of investee companies. The companies will retain their own independent boards, which will manage the banks and determine their strategy.

HM Treasury and UK Financial Investments does not comment on individual contracts offered by or commercial decisions taken by its investee companies.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of taxpayers in Lancashire were paying income tax at the higher rate on the latest date for which figures are available. [276309]

Mr. Timms: Around 54,000, or 9 per cent. of taxpayers in Lancashire, paid income tax at the higher rate for 2006-07. This information is based on the latest survey of personal incomes.

International Assistance: Sri Lanka

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* his international counterparts and *(b)* Ministerial colleagues on the cancellation of the IMF loan to Sri Lanka. [276125]

Ian Pearson: The Government are concerned about the continuing humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka and is committed to helping Sri Lanka avoid an economic crisis that would hurt Sri Lanka's poor most. No IMF loans to Sri Lanka have been cancelled. The IMF has not yet presented a programme to the board for decision.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 April 2009, on green businesses. [276554]

Angela Eagle: Receipt of the correspondence referred to could not be traced. Copies have been requested from the hon. Member's office and will be dealt with as soon as possible following receipt.

Public Expenditure: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the 2009 Budget on small businesses in Coventry. [272955]

Angela Eagle: Building on the £20 billion fiscal stimulus announced in the pre-Budget report, the Chancellor set out a Budget which will provide further targeted support for individuals and businesses through the current downturn, while ensuring the economy is able to make a strong and sustainable recovery.

Tax policies announced from the 2008 pre-Budget report are delivering £3 billion to improve business cash flow, complemented by £2 billion of lending support. Budget 2009 announced a further £3 billion to improve business cash flow and encourage future investment, as well as up to £5 billion of trade credit insurance support.

Budget 2009 also announced the expansion of HMRC's Business Payment Support Service to offer enhanced support for firms making losses now. Since the 2008 pre-Budget report this service has reached 490 agreements with businesses in Coventry to spread tax payments worth £10 million.

Details of the impact of Budget measures on the west midlands region can be found at

http://budget.treasury.gov.uk/regions.htm

Redundancy: Government Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what measures he introduced in the 2009 Budget to assist householders in circumstances where one or more wage-earners has been made redundant and levels of domestic indebtedness are increasing; [276194]

(2) what measures in the 2009 Budget assist members of black and minority ethnic communities in rural areas who have recently been made redundant. [276195]

Mr. Timms: To help provide support for individuals who have been made redundant, the Budget announced a one-off increase of £30 in the level of statutory redundancy pay, increasing the weekly rate to £380. Redundancy pay is a right for all employees who have worked continuously for their employer for two years and are made redundant. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform intends to implement this increase on 1 October 2009.

This builds on existing support such as the tax credit system, which is designed to respond quickly to changing circumstances, and has helped 355,000 households living on a lower income to receive an average of £35 per week more in tax credits. The pre-Budget report in November 2008 also announced a substantial package of support. This includes extending the Rapid Response Service, which provides a range of on-site personalised support through Jobcentre Plus; extending Local Employment Partnerships to assist the recently unemployed in their local labour market; and enhancements to Support for Mortgage Interest, to better help people out of work to meet the interest payments on their mortgage.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of the budget for HM Revenue and Customs' Workforce Change programme has been spent to date; [273637]

(2) what percentage of HM Revenue and Customs' Workforce Change programme has been completed to date; [273638]

(3) what budget has been set for HM Revenue and Customs' Workforce Change programme. [273640]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* The aim of the Workforce Change programme is to match HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) staff resources and estate to the Department's future business needs and deliver improved efficiencies for the taxpayer. HMRC expects to realise over £230 million in sustainable savings as well as wider business efficiencies as a result of releasing surplus office space and re-organising into larger more efficient teams in fewer offices.

HMRC allocated and centrally funded £65 million for the Workforce Change programme in 2008-09. For 2009-10 individual lines of business within HMRC will fund business restructuring plans from their general funding allocations.

HMRC is aiming to reduce its estate by 500,000 sq m —approximately one third of the estate inherited from its predecessor departments—by March 2012. To date, HMRC has reduced its estate by 218 000 sq m, or approximately 43 per cent. of this target.

Taxation: Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assistance the Government offered each UK Overseas Territory to facilitate *(a)* the completion of tax information exchange agreements and *(b)* inclusion in the OECD list of jurisdictions that had substantially implemented the internationally-agreed tax standard before the G20 Meeting in April 2009. [274396]

Mr. Timms: The negotiation of tax information exchange agreements with other jurisdictions, including the UK, is essentially a matter for the Overseas Territories themselves. Such agreements are negotiated under Entrustments granted by the UK. The UK offers assistance where appropriate and encourages dialogue between the Overseas Territories and other countries. In the case of jurisdictions with particular capacity constraints, the UK offers more extensive assistance.

Inclusion in the OECD list of jurisdictions that have substantially implemented the internationally agreed tax standard is based on assessments carried out by the OECD.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what correspondence he has had with the administrations of the UK Overseas Territories on removal of their tax haven status; [274703]

(2) when the Government first informed the administrations of the UK Overseas Territories of the requirement to conclude tax information exchange agreements prior to their removal from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development list of the jurisdictions considered to be tax havens; [276009]

(3) what discussions he has had with the administrations of the UK Overseas Territories on the timetable for *(a)* their agreement to the tax information exchange grants required by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and *(b)* the inclusion of their jurisdictions on the OECD White List; and if he will make a statement. [276013]

Mr. Timms: The Government maintain continuing dialogue with the Overseas Territories on tax co-operation issues. A number of Overseas Territories began negotiating tax information exchange agreements some years ago following commitments they made to comply with OECD standards. The Government welcome progress made so far and encourages all jurisdictions to maintain their efforts to implement the internationally agreed standard.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent correspondence he has had with the administrations of the Crown Dependencies on removal of their tax haven status; [274397]

(2) when the Government first informed the administrations of the Crown Dependencies of the requirement to conclude tax information exchange agreements prior to their removal from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development list of the jurisdictions considered to be tax havens. [276008]

Mr. Timms: The Government maintain continuing dialogue with the Crown Dependences on tax co-operation issues. The Crown Dependences began negotiating tax information exchange agreements some years ago following commitments they made to comply with OECD standards. The Government welcome the inclusion of the Crown Dependences in the OECD list of jurisdictions that have substantially implemented the internationally agreed tax standard.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implication for the Government's policy on reducing tax avoidance of the progress made by the UK Overseas Territories towards signature of tax information exchange grants prior to the G20 Summit in April 2009. [276012]

Mr. Timms: Tax information exchange agreements play an important role in combating tax evasion and avoidance. Overseas Territories have recently concluded a number of agreements but it is too early to assess their impact.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the standards which Crown Dependencies should meet in respect of requirements for disclosure of information on tax regimes; [276010]

(2) what his policy is on the standards which UK Overseas Territories should meet in respect of requirements for disclosure of information on tax regimes. [276011]

Mr. Timms: The Government expect the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories to comply with international standards of transparency and exchange of information in tax matters as developed by the OECD and endorsed by the G20.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to amusement machine licence duty announced in the 2009 Budget on *(a)* pubs, *(b)* seaside arcades, *(c)* bingo clubs and *(d)* the gaming machine industry. [274767]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury assess the broad impact of changes to gambling taxes and duties but the information collected by HMRC from amusement machine licence duty returns does not identify the sector in which the machine is located. Budget 2009 announced an increase in amusement machine licence duty, which is expected to add around one percentage point to gaming machines' effective tax rate. The costings implications can be found in table A1 of the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to provide a substantive answer to Question *(a)* 273637, *(b)* 273638, *(c)* 273640 and *(d)* 273641 on the HM Revenue and Customs Workforce Change Programme tabled on 5 May 2009 for named day answer on 8 May. [276545]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the hon. Member.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275206]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Interest payments to suppliers in respect of late payment of invoices are not centrally or separately recorded on the Department's or The Royal Parks' accounting systems and can only be identified at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274509]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's accounting system does not record costs relating to banqueting services discretely and to obtain these would incur disproportionate cost.

The costs relating to conference services are listed in the following table.

	Conference services costs (£)
2008-09	79,724
2007-08	148,034
2006-07	227,678
2005-06	151,093
2004-05	58,272

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273778]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent the following on branded DCMS stationery (letterhead, business cards and compliment slips) in the past five years:

	Spend (£)
2004-05	12,421.32
2005-06	13,904
2006-07	16,027.18
2007-08	9,891.86
2008-09	6,514.30

The Department has spent the following on branded gifts in the past five years :

		Spend (£)
2006-07	*(a)* Internal	446.74
2008-09	*(b)* External	3,738

Stress

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of sickness absence taken by staff in his Department was attributable to work-related stress in the last three years. [273063]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Our records do not distinguish between sickness caused by work-related stress and stress due to other causes and this information could be compiled only at a disproportionate cost.

Swimming Pools

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial support his Department has provided to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* community groups for the construction of swimming pools in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [275553]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that while they hold details of financial support for the redevelopment of leisure centres they cannot identify the support set aside for the construction of swimming pools. The information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

In the 2009-10 planning round, under the Free Swimming Capital Modernisation programme, approximately £5.5 million of funding will support the construction of new pools.

Tourism: Scotland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage tourists to visit Scotland. [275702]

Barbara Follett: DCMS supports UK tourism via its grant in aid sponsorship of VisitBritain who in turn promote Scotland as a holiday destination as part of its remit.

This promotion is undertaken through various platforms such press, public relations, the travel trade and the internet.

Currently VisitBritain is working in partnership with Visit Scotland and hosting a dedicated web page for the "Homecoming Scotland 2009" strategy. This is aimed at promoting tourism in Scotland via a year-long programme of events to celebrate some of Scotland's greatest contributions to the world.

Tourism: Standards

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the participation levels have been in Visit Britain's National Quality Assessment scheme in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274780]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have provided the following data about the participation levels in the National Quality Assessment scheme for the period April 2005 to April 2009.

As at April each year	All sectors of visitor economy	Holiday Cottage Group (franchise ratings)	Total assessed
2005	22,981	n/a	22,981
2006	22,626	n/a	22,626
2007	22,936	2,972	25,908
2008	23,577	2,797	26,374
2009	[1]23,997	3,270	27,267

[1] 4.4 per cent. increase in VisitEngland assessed since April 2005 (excluding Holiday Cottage Group ratings)

OLYMPICS

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the Olympic Delivery Authority spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273744]

Tessa Jowell: As a new organisation established in 2006, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) purchased furniture for its offices in Canary Wharf and Stratford at a total cost of £1.7 million. The breakdown by year is: 2006 £0.9 million, 2007 £0.7 million and 2008 £0.1 million.

To secure better value for money, a cost sharing agreement is in place with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games who will use this furniture as their staffing increases in the build-up to the games and the role of the ODA diminishes.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts have been let by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in each of the last five years; what the monetary value of each such contract was; and what services were supplied under each such contract. [276538]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies have not let any contracts to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in the last five years.

The Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies have however, worked on a number of joint projects and programmes with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment to which the respective organisations have contributed appropriately under the Government's guidance for joint working between public bodies.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment on tendering for contracts from the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last three years. [276539]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) has not spent anything on tendering for contracts from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) or its predecessor bodies in each of the last three years. CABE is a statutory non-departmental public body. It has worked in partnership with the HCA and its predecessor bodies, the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships, on a number of joint projects. In these circumstances, each organisation contributes appropriately, in accordance with Government guidance for joint working between public bodies. This is to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that each brings to the project the benefit of its distinct capabilities and separate and different statutory functions.

Council Tax: Valuation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 879W, on council tax, how many homes were revalued for council tax purposes at the point of sale following property improvements in each region in each year since 1997; and how many such homes were revalued to *(a)* a higher, *(b)* a lower and *(c)* the same council tax band. [276551]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency is required to review council tax bands at the point of sale when a property has previously been improved. This review will result in either a band increase or the band remaining unaltered. The number of properties reviewed and the outcome of this review, for each year since 1997, broken down into Government regions for England, are as follows:

	East Midlands		East of England		London		North East		North West	
31 March to 1 April	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered
1997-98	313	1,497	688	2,286	275	1,037	186	779	316	1,484
1998-99	286	1,268	755	1,814	287	1,120	190	735	389	1,547
1999-2000	563	2,570	974	4,115	469	1,582	255	1,369	669	3,768
2000-01	472	2,269	753	3,483	411	2,025	275	1,378	669	3,206
2001-02	581	2,791	1,003	4,481	376	2,418	428	1,837	913	3,574
2002-03	639	3,556	1,186	4,972	800	4,604	428	1,799	933	4,596
2003-04	707	4,069	1,181	4,832	751	4,650	359	1,968	782	4,827
2004-05	709	5,526	1,438	6,725	847	4,327	336	2,278	847	5,837
2005-06	867	6,009	1,956	7,497	1,232	5,664	364	2,334	979	5,986
2006-07	852	5,076	2,029	7,136	1,406	4,639	432	2,458	949	5,869

31 March to 1 April	East Midlands		East of England		London		North East		North West	
	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered
2007-08	1262	6,891	3,236	9,626	2,923	7,217	750	3,279	1,540	8,375
2008-09	558	3,231	1,379	5,589	1,305	3,243	283	1,500	724	3,604

31 March to 1 April	South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and The Humber	
	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered	Band increased	Band unaltered
1997-98	1,386	3,121	833	1,757	376	1,228	203	928
1998-99	890	2,760	742	1,580	441	1,274	204	1,690
1999-2000	1,288	5,731	982	3,112	556	2,455	410	1,691
2000-01	1,288	5,492	886	3,089	652	2,555	385	1,543
2001-02	1,464	6,742	727	3,777	540	2,618	595	2,206
2002-03	1,961	8,660	998	4,801	557	3,621	499*	2,404
2003-04	1,619	7,139	853	4,334	675	3,733	555	2,988
2004-05	2,072	10,379	1,194	5,754	770	4,315	646	3,838
2005-06	2,543	11,936	1,304	6,996	999	5,517	756	4,435
2006-07	2,857	11,217	1,519	7,065	1,005	5,097	868	4,588
2007-08	4,611	15,296	2,333	9,453	1,438	6,703	1,305	5,446
2008-09	1,868	6,743	970	4,193	664	3,164	655	2,458

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average net weekly income was of a household living in *(a)* registered social landlord and *(b)* local authority accommodation in each of the last five years. [273401]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is in the following table.

Median household income (£ per week), for council and housing association tenants, United Kingdom, 2003-04 to 2007-08, before and after housing costs

	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
	Rented from council	Rented from a housing association	Rented from council	Rented from a housing association
2003-04	268	275	198	193
2004-05	271	284	205	207
2005-06	274	292	209	211
2006-07	277	288	211	209
2007-08	272	290	209	215

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for household below average income figures is single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted for "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Median household incomes are used as these are less affected by outliers. Incomes are presented in 2007-08 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.
7. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
8. Separate council and housing association figures should be treated with caution. This is because a significant number of housing association tenants wrongly report that they are council tenants. The most common reason for this is where their home used to be owned by the council and although ownership has now transferred to a housing association, the tenant still thinks that their landlord is the council (local authority).

Source:

Households Below Average Income, 2003-04-2007-08

SCOTLAND

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274479]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice and does not retain information on work placement opportunities to school pupils, university students and graduates.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions for violent crime offences there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; what the average sentence handed down for such offences was in each of those years; and how many of those so sentenced received the maximum possible sentence in each year. [276116]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number of convictions, the number sentenced to immediate custody, the average custodial sentence length (in months) and the number given the maximum sentence for violent offences.

Violent offences include the offence classifications of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery. When sentencing convicted offenders, judges and magistrates take account of the characteristics of the offender including age, previous convictions and characteristics in terms of seriousness and the degree of culpability.

Data cover the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number convicted of violent offences (violence against the person, sexual and robbery offences), number sentenced to immediate custody, the average custodial sentence length (in months) and number given the maximum sentence 2004-06

	2004	2005	2006
Number convicted	2,308	2,280	2,606
Number sentenced to immediate custody[1]	510	517	648
Average custodial sentence length (in months)[2]	25	26	26
Number given the maximum sentence	16	17	15

[1] The number sentenced to immediate custody includes those given life imprisonment or a juvenile justice centre order.
[2] The average custodial sentence lengths exclude life sentences and juvenile justice centre orders.

Crimes of Violence: Foreigners

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals are serving sentences for violent crime in prisons in Northern Ireland. [276119]

Paul Goggins: At 14 May the Northern Ireland Prison Service held 123 foreign national prisoners of whom 54 were sentenced prisoners. Of these, 18 were serving sentences for violent crime and had received sentences from the courts ranging from two years to life.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275196]

Paul Goggins: The Department does not separately record details on interest for late payment of invoices under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

The Department's agencies paid a total of £34,542.42 in 2008-09. No amounts were paid in 2007-08 or 2006-07.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many community drug awareness campaigns have been undertaken by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the policing districts in each of the last five years; and what assessment he has made of their effectiveness in each case. [276223]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps British forces in Afghanistan have taken to protect girls' schools and girls travelling to and from school from violent attacks; and what discussions his Department has had with its military allies on the matter. [276540]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: ISAF forces in Afghanistan continue to work hard, in conjunction with the Afghan National Security Forces, to afford all Afghan nationals a safe and secure environment in which to go about their daily lives. To comment further on operational planning would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel injured in Afghanistan were admitted to UK hospitals as a result of their injury in each year since 2001; [276030]

(2) how many service personnel injured in Afghanistan have been hospitalised for more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* nine months as a result of their injury. [276041]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Prior to 8 October 2007, the information requested was not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, from 8 October 2007, the Defence Patient Tracking System (DPTS) has provided a centrally available record of locations where healthcare is being delivered along the care pathway of military patients.

Between 8 October 2007 and 14 May 2009, the DPTS shows 387 service personnel were admitted as an in-patient to one or more UK hospitals because of injuries sustained in Afghanistan. Of these personnel, 330 were admitted as an in-patient to one UK hospital only and 57 were admitted as an in-patient to more than one UK hospital.

11 of the 387 Service personnel were admitted to a UK hospital and were an in-patient for more than three months but less than six months.

None of the 387 Service personnel were admitted to a UK hospital and were an in-patient for more than six months but less than nine months.

None of the 387 Service personnel were admitted to a UK hospital and were an in-patient for more than nine months.

215 of the 387 Service Personnel included in this response still have open care pathways in the DPTS as they are still receiving specialist treatment. As such, some might require further periods as a hospital in-patient after 14 May 2009, leading to an increased cumulative length of time they have been admitted as an in-patient.

Some injured service personnel also receive out-patient hospital care and, or rehabilitation at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court or at one of the MOD's Regional Rehabilitation Units.

Armed Forces: Eyesight

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female recruits to the Royal Navy Air Crew Pilot Branch were accepted with myopia of (i) -0.75 exactly, (b) less than -0.75 and (c) more than -0.75 are in both eyes in the last 12 months; and what the required eyesight standards for similar disciplines in other parts of the armed forces. [1] [274348]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of male and female recruits to the Royal Navy Air Crew Pilot Branch accepted with myopia in both eyes in the last 12 months are provided as follows.

MYOPIA

	Male	*Female*
<-0.75	1	0
-0.75	9	0
-0.75>	0	0

The Aircrew Entry Visual Standard for myopia of -0.75 is common across all three services. However the nature of secondary duties undertaken by Royal Navy personnel requires their pilots to pass an additional colour perception test.

AWE Aldermaston

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for rescheduling the nuclear accident planning exercise at AWE Aldermaston from 13 May to 3 June 2009. [276107]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The site exercise at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston planned for 13 May 2009 was rescheduled as associated restrictions would have clashed with planned activities elsewhere on the site. The rearranged date of 3 June 2009 was agreed with the regulator, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [267539]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* Information on board membership and remuneration is published in individual bodies' annual report and accounts.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years; [274204]

(2) what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275348]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In financial year 2008-09, the MOD spent a total of £20.3 million on its corporate office supplies contracts. Of that figure, 54 per cent. (£11 million) was spent on products that contained recycled material.

Until 1 October 2007 MOD office supplies, including printer consumables, were purchased under a number of separate contracts.

Information relating to spend prior to this date is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The amount spent since 1 October 2007 is provided in the following table.

£ million

	FY 2007-08	*FY 2008-09*
Recycled office supplies (excluding printer ink/toner cartridges as shown below)	0.3	0.7
Printer ink/toner cartridges		
(a) Remanufactured (i.e. with 100 per cent. recycled content)	0.6	1.3
(b) Containing approximately 10 per cent. recycled material	4.0	9.0
(c) Containing no recycled material	0.5	1.0
Total spend on printer ink/toner cartridges	5.1	11.3

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of people who have applied for a veterans' badge. [276500]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 14 May 2009 over 717,000 veterans badges have been issued. This total includes those issued as a result of individual application and also badges now awarded automatically to those leaving the services.

Ex-servicemen: Pensions

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans are not able to join either the AFPS75 or AFPS05 pension scheme; and how many veterans who left the armed forces before 1975 receive a preserved pension. [276522]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of veterans who are not able to join either the AFPS75 or AFPS05 pension scheme is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As preserved pensions were introduced from 1975, no veterans who left prior to this would be in receipt of a preserved pension.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what minimum level of hearing loss from active service is necessary for a veteran to receive a disablement pension on the grounds of hearing loss. [276523]

1. *[Official Report, 10 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 7MC.]*

Mr. Kevan Jones: No fault compensation for disorders caused by service before 6 April 2005 is provided by the War Pensions Scheme. Its legislation sets out the method of assessment and provides that disablement pensions are paid where disablement is assessed at 20 per cent. or more. For hearing loss this equates to 50dB loss in each ear averaged over 1, 2 and 3 kHz.

The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme applies to disorders caused on or after 6 April 2005. This scheme is tariff based with lump sum awards linked to specific descriptors. For more serious disorders there is an additional Guaranteed Income Payment payable for life. The lowest award for hearing loss alone is the descriptor 'bilateral permanent hearing loss of 50-75dB averaged over 1, 2 and 3 kHz with mild or no tinnitus'. In addition a Guaranteed Income Payment becomes payable where hearing loss alone exceeds 75dB averaged over 1, 2 and 3 kHz in each ear.

The Ministry of Defence's approach to the assessment of service related sensorineural hearing loss for both the War Pensions Scheme and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme is based on contemporary scientific evidence and understanding. This approach has been confirmed in recent years by several reviews carried out by independent audiological experts.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to review the eligibility criteria for entitlement *(a)* to a preserved pension and *(b)* to pensions for those who served in the armed forces prior to 1975; and if he will make a statement. [276524]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence currently has no plans to review the eligibility criteria for entitlement to a preserved pension and to pensions for those who served in the armed forces prior to 1975.

Military Bases: Aviation

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many logistic movers there are at each military airport; and what the full establishment is in each case. [276235]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The amount of Logistics (Mover) Tradesmen and full establishment figures at each military airport is provided in the following table.

Unit	*Establishment*	*Strength*
RAF Brize Norton[1]	269	225
RAF Lyneham[1]	308	286
RAF Akrotiri	54	54
RAF Aldergrove	7	6
RAF Ascension Island	7	7
RAF Benson	6	6
RAF Coningsby	13	13
RAF Cottesmore	7	7
RAF Gibraltar	9	9
RAF Kinloss	5	5
RAF Leeming	6	6
RAF Leuchars	6	6
RAF Lossiemouth	7	7
RAF Marham	13	13
RAF Northolt	26	26
RAF Odiham	32	32
RAF Wittering	6	5
RAF Waddington	6	6
Out of Area		
Herrick[2]	42	42
Telic[2]	47	47
Falkland Island[2]	9	9
Logs officers[3]	57	51

[1] The deficit in personnel is met by the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and Contractors to ensure operational output is maintained.
[2] Out of Area positions in theatre have Logistics (Mover) personnel that are drawn from across all RAF stations.
[3] Logistic Branch Officers also undertake Movement roles, however they are not part of the Logistic (Mover) Trade but are a Branch. Therefore, they have been tabled separately from the Units.

Military Exercises

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's military training exercises has *(a)* been cancelled and *(b)* been cancelled because of a lack of appropriate equipment in each year since 2001. [276550]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces conduct a wide variety of overseas military exercises each year. All overseas exercises are conducted in order to generate, or maintain military capability in line with the tasks outlined in Defence Strategic Guidance. On occasion, exercises are cancelled for reasons that include effectiveness of delivery; value for money constraints; international policy dimensions and circumstances; changed priorities; operational constraints; and focus on current operations. The proportion of MOD exercises cancelled since 2003 is in the following table.

	Scheduled training events	*Cancelled events*	*Percentage*	*Conducted*
2008-09	542	80	14.7	462
2007-08	722	76	10.5	646
2006-07	680	64	9.4	616
2005-06	533	58	10.8	475
2004-05	379	79	20.8	300
2003-04	350	151	43	199

Since 2003, there have been no exercises cancelled due to a lack of appropriate equipment.

Details of the exercises cancelled prior to 2003 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pakistan: EU Action

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution his Department made to the EU's Pakistan Country Strategy Paper 2007 to 2013; and if he will make a statement. [270101]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department for International Development has the UK Government lead for the European Commission's Pakistan Country Strategy Paper

2007 to 2013 which focuses on poverty reduction in Pakistan. The Ministry of Defence made no contribution to this strategy paper.

Trident

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which potential aggressors he expects to be deterred by the Trident nuclear deterrent programme in 2024. [276260]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 2006 White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cmd 6994), section three, paragraphs 3-8 to 3-13, states that over the next 20 to 50 years we can foresee nuclear risks in three areas: Re-emergence of a major nuclear threat; emerging nuclear states and state-sponsored terrorism.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's internal audit department report to the accounting officer for every financial year since 1997-98. [258018]

Mr. Michael Foster: Internal audit reports are produced for internal management purposes and releasing them would risk undermining the integrity and effectiveness of the audit process, as well as the safe, secure and effective operation of the Department for International Development (DFID).

UN Development Programme

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much non-core funding his Department has provided to the United Nations Development programme in each financial year since 1997-98; and to which projects in each country of operation such funding was allocated; [275986]

(2) how much core funding his Department has provided to the United Nations Development programme in each financial year since 1997-98; [275987]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each agreement between his Department and the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) on *(a)* financial, *(b)* technical and *(c)* other means of co-operation with the UNDP. [275988]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The "Statistics on International Development" publications, available in the House of Commons Library and at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/DFID-Expenditure-Statistics/

provide details of total external assistance through multilateral agencies from all official UK sources. Country-level information on DFID funding for UNDP cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

The UNDP/UK/Denmark Institutional Strategy (IS) 2008-11 sets out how the UK Government will work with the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) over the period 2008-11. It is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/undp-is-2008-2011.pdf

The DFID Annual Report outlines the levels of financial support which supports this Institutional Strategy. This is available in the House Library or at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Annual-report/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations *(a)* he and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Burma have made to the Burmese regime on the health of Aung San Suu Kyi; and if he will make a statement. [276351]

Caroline Flint: We were greatly concerned by reports that Aung San Suu Kyi was suffering from low blood pressure and dehydration at the beginning of May. However, latest reporting suggests that her condition has improved. Mrs Suu Kyi was reported to be in good spirits during a visit by an assistant to her regular doctor on Monday 11 May 2009. We have also received reports that she appeared to be in good health on arrival for her trial on 18 May 2009. Nonetheless, we remain concerned that Mrs Suu Kyi has been under house arrest for a considerable period and has not had the level of medical care that can be enjoyed by a free individual. In striking contrast, senior military leaders go out of Burma for medical treatment whenever the need arises.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Burma has had with governments of ASEAN countries on the arrest and detention of Aung San Suu Kyi by the Burmese regime on 14 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [276355]

Caroline Flint: We are in regular contact with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries regarding Burma's actions, including on Mrs Suu Kyi's arrest. We support the strong statements issued by a number of member countries, including Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bill Rammell, and European colleagues will be attending the EU-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting in Phnom Penh on 27-28 May 2009, where he will raise Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest and our collective response with our Asian counterparts.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to seek to secure the release of Aung San Suu Kyi following her arrest and detention by the Burmese regime on 14 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [276356]

Bill Rammell: The arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi on 14 May 2009 is of serious concern and shows how determined the regime are to silence her. Our embassy in Rangoon was in contact with the Burmese Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately on 14 May. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister issued a statement on the morning of 14 May, condemning the regime's actions. The UK actively pursued a statement issued on behalf of the EU and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed with EU counterparts in Brussels on 19 May 2009 further steps the EU should take.

We are continuing to discuss the situation with our international colleagues in the UN. Once the outcome of the trial is known, we will actively consider how best to engage members of the UN Security Council further on the situation in Burma.

China: Christianity

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Chinese government on the detention of two Chinese Christians, Alimiyiang Yimih and Wusiman Yiming; and if he will make a statement. [276434]

Bill Rammell: The case of Alimjan Himit (who we believe is also known as Alimujiang Yimiti) was raised at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in January as part of an individual case list. We urged the Chinese to consider freeing Alimjan, and to ensure he had access to a defence lawyer. The Chinese responded that Alimjan was detained in Kashgar Detention Centre, and that his physical conditions were normal and he enjoyed the rights to family visits and to hire a defence lawyer according to law.

The case of Osman Imin (known as Wusiman Yiming in Chinese documentation) was also raised at our bilateral Human Rights Dialogue in January as part of the case list. We asked for information on the nature of the charges brought against Osman, information on where he is being held and his expected release date. To date we have not yet had a response.

We will continue to monitor both of these cases and raise them wherever appropriate. We will also continue to raise broader issues of religious freedom and to urge the Chinese Government to ratify the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274448]

Gillian Merron: The provision for UK based language training for Foreign and Commonwealth Office,(FCO) officers was outsourced in 2007 after the completion of a tender process in accordance with Government guidelines. A framework agreement was signed with 15 providers. Within the framework, each newly commissioned course is subject to competition between these providers.

Information and data covering the FCO's global outsourcing of services are not held centrally and could, therefore, be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to maintain the security of its databases; and if he will make a statement. [274085]

Gillian Merron: The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provides a strategy for protecting information that government handles and puts in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [274947]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* Details for every Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) directorate are not held centrally, and to give a comprehensive answer would incur disproportionate cost. However, among those FCO directorates that principally contract out work in this way, there are currently 70 staff performing work which is contracted out and who earn less that £7.45 per hour.

Those contracted on a temporary basis and sourced via an agency, rather than being contracted by the FCO, remain employees of and paid for by the agency concerned. The FCO pays an hourly rate to the agency for the provision of the service which includes the agency's management fee, mandatory employers' contributions, and a remuneration element, but the FCO does not necessarily have sight of the breakdown detailing the exact remuneration element.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1032W, on departmental public expenditure, how many overseas posts received overseas price mechanism uplifts in 2008-09; and how much uplift funding each such post received. [272912]

David Miliband: The following table highlights the posts that received an uplift in 2008-09. The exchange rate risk for posts in the Americas is managed by a devolved budget holder. The budget holder received a total £7.595 million uplift to maintain post budgets in 2008-09.

Post	£ *Uplift received in 2008-09*
Abu Dhabi	89,902
Abuja	751,193
Accra	477,031

Post	£ Uplift received in 2008-09
Addis Ababa	156,942
Alexandria	21,500
Algiers	228,984
Amman	405,679
Amsterdam	17,735
Ankara	632,821
Ashgabat	52,011
Asmara	23,568
Astana	146,233
Athens	484,823
Auckland	9,450
Baghdad	261,830
Bahrain	61,282
Baku	304,787
Bandar Seri Begawan	85,111
Bangkok	390,981
Banjul	81,620
Basra	34,556
Beijing	1,090,543
Beirut	148,465
Belgrade	443,620
Berlin	817,569
Berne	483,561
Bordeaux	4,473
Bratislava	165,814
Brisbane	26,911
Brussels	1,701,033
Bucharest	170,041
Budapest	375,523
Cairo	297,047
Canberra	363,543
Capetown	25,497
Chennai	16,993
Chisinau	94,597
Chongqing	219,847
Colombo	409,930
Copenhagen	462,913
Dakar	84,857
Damascus	105,441
Dar es Salaam	121,414
Dhaka	263,196
Doha	248,162
Dubai	467,320
Dublin	441,892
Dushanbe	63,304
Dusseldorf	543,737
Ekaterinburg	61,387
Freetown	120,514
Geneva	617,328
Guangzhou	338,070
Hanoi	94,017
Harare	95,000
Helsinki	293,429
Ho Chi Minh City	74,672
Hong Kong	184,135
Honiara	13,830
Islamabad	81,925
Istanbul	243,005
Istanbul	243,005
Italian network	1,295,096
Jakarta	199,011

Post	£ Uplift received in 2008-09
Jerusalem	312,782
Jo'burg	39,368
Kabul	818,168
Kampala	121,968
Karachi	6,442
Kathmandu	10,172
Khartoum	633,972
Kiev	390,733
Kigali	243,954
Kinshasa	84,087
Kolkata	8,202
Kuala Lumpur	77,313
Kuwait	319,527
Lagos	1,376,786
Lille	16,739
Lilongwe	40,894
Lisbon	333,442
Ljubljana	130,968
Luanda	163,161
Lusaka	184,313
Luxembourg	72,356
Lyon	11,768
Manila	191,687
Maputo	131,839
Marseille	405
Melbourne	38,791
Minsk	21,927
Moscow	1,037,768
Mumbai	42,389
Munich	143,222
Muscat	196,152
Nairobi	742,066
New Delhi	254,554
Nicosia	347,358
Osaka	401,217
Oslo	137,382
Paris	1,632,629
Perth	17,905
Phnom Penh	95,432
Port Louis	92,495
Port Moresby	23,919
Prague	420,557
Pretoria	169,078
Pristina	141,918
Rabat	214,806
Rangoon	142,402
Reykjavik	85,197
Riga	159,620
Riyadh	543,422
Sana'a	192,750
Sarajevo	143,148
Shanghai	369,585
Singapore	339,484
Skopje	120,945
Sofia	225,618
Spain network	1,384,831
St Petersburg	177,674
Stockholm	281,444
Strasbourg	9,158
Suva	51,014
Sydney	90,327

Post	£ Uplift received in 2008-09
Taipei	232,491
Tallinn	158,157
Tashkent	127,370
Tbilisi	137,460
Tehran	512,350
Tel Aviv	523,376
The Hague	332,616
Tirana	76,686
Tokyo	2,283,701
Tripoli	302,539
Tunis	124,977
Ulaanbaatar	33,363
Valletta	131,263
Vienna	518,786
Vilnius	158,877
Warsaw	539,335
Wellington	27,922
Yaounde	85,956
Yerevan	107,561
Zagreb	175,617
Sub Total	40,815,630
+ American	7,595,000
Total	48,410,630

Departmental Training

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on staff training in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [271704]

Gillian Merron: During the 12 month period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent approximately £9.4 million centrally on learning and development including language training, core skills and specialist human resources training.

The FCO also devolves training funds to overseas posts, geographical and thematic directorates. Information on these funds is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Gambia: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions consular staff in the Gambia have visited David and Fiona Fulton in detention; and what consular services have been provided to David and Fiona Fulton. [275331]

Gillian Merron: I cannot comment on Mrs. Fiona Fulton as she has not given permission for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to discuss her case with third parties. Consular staff have visited Mr. Fulton 13 times. We are monitoring this case closely and will continue to make regular visits. Our primary concern when British nationals are detained overseas is for their welfare. We have provided Mr. Fulton with support and information and liaised with the Gambian authorities as appropriate, and continue to keep his family updated on progress.

Government Hospitality Fund

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 511W, on the Government Hospitality Fund, how much the Government Hospitality unit of his Department's Protocol Directorate has spent on *(a)* linen, *(b)* china, *(c)* silver and *(d)* glassware in each of the last five years. [271727]

Gillian Merron: Government Hospitality (GH) recorded the following expenditure on items of linen, china, silver and glassware between 2004 and 2008:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	£ 2008
Linen	0	0	2,455	824	560
China	17,207	0	0	0	0
Silver	700	520	1,406	514	1,202
Glass	0	0	0	0	0

Most of the equipment held by GH is several decades old, and was purchased at the time of Her Majesty the Queen's accession to the throne. GH purchases replacement stock, for example purchase of china in 2004 to replace 50-year-old dinner plates, produced by Wedgewood as a special commission. GH also buys new stock items when required for one-off occasions, for example the G8 summit in 2005 at Gleneagles.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether matters in respect of Israel's nuclear weapons capability and regional non-proliferation opportunities were discussed at his meeting with his Israeli counterpart on 13 May 2009 in London. [276305]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not discuss these matters with Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman during their meeting on 13 May 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on the Middle East peace process of the release of kidnapped Israeli soldier Corporal Shalit. [276494]

Caroline Flint: We judge that Corporal Shalit's release would prove to be a positive step for the Middle East Peace Process.

The UK continues to call for the immediate, unconditional and safe release of Gilad Shalit. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this most recently in his statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009. We have also shown our support to Corporal Shalit's family by meeting his parents on several occasions.

Official Hospitality

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on entertainment by each British *(a)* Embassy, *(b)* High Commission and *(c)* Consulate in 2008. [273702]

Gillian Merron: The direct entertainment expenditure figure available for the financial year 2008 (April 2007 to March 2008) is £6,470,379.11.

Our accounting reports do not allow us to separate the spend on entertainment into the categories requested and it would involve disproportionate cost to interrogate them further.

This figure includes all items, for example catering and set up costs that are directly attributable to functions, events and receptions held at posts throughout the world and in the UK.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on disrupting information networks used by Somali pirates. [276002]

Gillian Merron: Working Group 1 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, which includes some EU member states, met for the second time on 7 and 8 May 2009 at the International Maritime Organisation. The Working Group, which is chaired by the UK, was attended by Interpol. In his conclusions, the Chair welcomed the engagement of Interpol with the work of the Contact Group and Interpol's willingness to engage with the military operations on information and intelligence sharing. Work in this area will continue.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that members of the armed forces in Sri Lanka have been involved in serious human rights abuses in recent weeks; and if he will make a statement. [275313]

Bill Rammell: We are very concerned at the reports of human rights abuses linked to both sides of the conflict in Sri Lanka. It is very difficult to confirm these worrying reports, given the lack of access for independent monitors and the media. We take every opportunity to raise our concerns with the Sri Lankan Government and we have consistently called for full access by independent monitors. We have also called for an early investigation as to whether crimes have been committed against civilians.

USA: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the written material *(a)* produced for and *(b)* obtained by his Department at the Preparatory Committee meeting for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York; and which Ministers and officials attended that Conference. [276105]

Caroline Flint: This year's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) achieved a great deal, including agreeing an agenda for the 2010 Review Conference by consensus for the first time in 15 years. It was attended by a broad UK delegation headed by John Duncan, Ambassador for Arms Control and Disarmament. The delegation included officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Ministry of Defence, Department of Energy and Climate Change and our mission to the Conference on Disarmament, as well as an academic adviser.

Written documents agreed at the PrepCom are already in the public domain see:

http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT2010Prepcom/PrepCom2009/index.html

and the FCO does not intend to publish any internal documents which were written or obtained by our delegation. However, as promised in the Prime Minister's 17 March 2009 speech, we will publish a "Road to 2010" plan this year.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 260887, tabled on 2 March 2009, on UK visas for sporting events. [271071]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 43-44W.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 261736, tabled on 4 March 2009, on UK visas for sporting events. [271072]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 542-43W.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records he holds on the medical conditions which created the need for abortions to be performed in emergency to save the life of the mother in those cases which have arisen in each year since 1986; and how many times each such condition has been the relevant factor. [275609]

Dawn Primarolo: In the 17 years between 1986 and 2002, there were 59 abortions performed under section 1(4) of the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, in an emergency to save the life of the pregnant woman. Numbers for each year between 2003 and 2007 were less than 10 (between nought and nine) and are suppressed, for confidentiality reasons, in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics

(2005). No further details about the specific medical conditions can be given as total figures are less than 10 (between nought and nine) in all cases.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Directorate in his Department has responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on (i) abortion, (ii) sexual and reproductive health and (iii) euthanasia and assisted dying; how many officials in his Department at each pay band are employed in this Directorate; what other posts in his Department each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [275610]

Dawn Primarolo: The Directorate with responsibility for the formulation and implementation of policy on abortion, sexual and reproductive health and euthanasia and assisted dying is the Health Improvement and Protection Directorate. It is one of the biggest in the Department and covers a wide range of policy areas including: Health and Wellbeing, Pandemic Flu, International and Public Health, Immunisation, Emergency Preparedness, Health Promotion, Analytical Services and Health, Science and Bioethics.

The whole time equivalent total of staff and their grade is:

	Whole time equivalent
Senior Civil Servant (3)	1
Senior Civil Servant (2)	7
Senior Civil Servant (1)	21
Senior Civil Servant (Analyst)	1
Grade 6	34
Grade 7	55
Fast Stream	10
Senior Executive Officer	48
Higher Executive Officer	36.50
Executive Officer	41
Administrative Officer	20

Information about the career histories of individuals working in the Health Improvement and Protection Division, or elsewhere in the Department, is not held centrally and it is not our practice for such information to be retained locally by a directorate. To establish this would incur disproportionate cost.

Aerotoxic Syndrome

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is conducting research into the condition referred to as aerotoxic syndrome. [274680]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's interest in issues to do with aerotoxicity rests primarily with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport. The Department has not commissioned research on the topic.

Cancer: Alcoholic Drinks

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 102W, on cancer: alcoholic drinks, what statistical evidence his Department holds of a relationship between alcohol consumption and female breast cancer; [274634]

(2) what statistics his Department holds on links between alcohol use and different forms of cancer in *(a)* men and *(b)* women. [274677]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not maintain a library of the numerous academic publications on the health harms, including cancer, associated with alcohol consumption, however it is important to note that as part of the policy making process the Department seeks expert advice from relevant health experts.

In addition to the scientific papers referenced in the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 102W, on cancer and alcoholic drinks, the Department holds copies of the following:

Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC) analysis into the consumption of alcohol and breast cancer. This analysis was published by the COC in their 2004 annual report;

"Alcohol, tobacco and breast cancer—collaborative reanalysis of individual data from 53 epidemiological studies, including 58,515 women with breast cancer and 95,067 women without the disease", by Hamajima N, et al and published in the British Journal of Cancer 87 (11): 1234-1245;

"Meta-analysis of Studies of Alcohol and Breast Cancer with Consideration of the Methodological Issues", by Key J, et al and published in Cancer Causes Control 17: 759-770; and

"Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions", Jones L et al., North West Public Health Observatory (2008). This reviews the relationships between alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms and estimates the proportion of deaths and hospital admissions that are caused by alcohol, including cancer.

Dental Services: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the ratio of NHS dentists to residents in *(a)* St. Albans and *(b)* Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [276361]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on national health service dentists per 100,000 of the population is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements and is provided by primary care trust and strategic health authority covering the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008. This information is not available at constituency level.

This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library. It is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Dental Services: South Yorkshire

Mr. Ilsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children are registered with an NHS dentist in (i) Barnsley, (ii) Rotherham, (iii) Doncaster, (iv) South Yorkshire and (v) England. [276420]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a national health service dentist to receive

NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period.

Information on patients seen as a percentage of the population, in England, is available in table D6 and D8 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2008" report. Information is split for adults and children and is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 September 2008. This is split by primary care trust and strategic health authority.

This report has already been placed in the Library. It is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q2

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated for dentistry in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Rotherham and *(c)* Doncaster in each of the last three years. [276421]

Ann Keen: The primary dental service funding allocations made to the Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) for the three years 2006-07 to 2008-09 are shown in the following table. These are net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which are retained locally to supplement the resources available for dentistry. Actual expenditure levels are determined by the pattern and type of services commissioned by each PCT. PCTs may also dedicate some of their other national health service resources to dentistry if they consider this an appropriate local priority.

Primary dental service net funding allocations for Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster PCTs

£000

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Barnsley	8,210	8,720	9,688
Rotherham	7,361	7,838	8,787
Doncaster	13,710	14,574	16,058

Notes:
1. The allocation figure for 2006-07 for Doncaster is the aggregate of the allocations made initially to Doncaster Central, Doncaster East, and Doncaster West PCTs before they merged to form the Doncaster PCT, with effect from 1 October 2006.
2. PCTs are awarded separate funding allocations to meet the cost of any dental vocational trainees who may be placed with dental practices in their area.

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what allocation of orthodontic units of activity has been awarded to practitioners in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Rotherham and *(c)* Doncaster in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [276422]

Ann Keen: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Health Education: Influenza

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many households he expects to receive informational material on swine influenza. [273842]

Dawn Primarolo: Distribution of the swine flu information leaflet to a total of 28,098,871 addresses in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland began on 5 May 2009.

Health Services: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps have been taken to improve *(a)* heart healthcare, *(b)* cancer healthcare, *(c)* influenza prevention and *(d)* mental healthcare for pensioners in Coventry. [276322]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs), in partnership with strategic health authorities and other stakeholders to commission health services for their local population, including vascular, cancer, influenza prevention, and mental health services.

The Department recommends that all people aged 65 and over, and those under 65 years who are in specific clinical at-risk groups, receive the seasonal influenza vaccine. Carers who are in receipt of a carer's allowance or are the main carer for an elderly person are also recommended influenza vaccine. The uptake information for Coventry is shown in the following table.

Influenza vaccine uptake 2008-09, Coventry Teaching PCT

	Percentage uptake
Influenza vaccine uptake in people aged 65 and over	69.1
Influenza vaccine uptake in people aged under 65 at-risk	46.9

Information for each PCT is contained in 'Influenza vaccine uptake among the 65 years and over and under 65 years at risk in England, Winter season 2008-09' which has been placed in the Library. This information covers those who received the vaccine as part of the national health service influenza programme.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the human papilloma virus vaccination campaign cut-off date was set in order to target those born before September 1990. [275849]

Dawn Primarolo: The ages of girls and young women eligible for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in the national health service vaccination programme are in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The JCVI recommended a routine HPV vaccination programme for girls aged 12 to 13 years and a time-limited 'catch up' vaccination of girls aged 13 to under 18 years. The programme started in September 2008. The NHS is providing HPV vaccination to the first 'catch-up' cohort of young women aged 17 to 18, with birth dates between 1 September 1990 and 31 August 1991.

The JCVI statement on 'Human papillomavirus vaccines to protect against cervical cancer' is published at

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on *(a)* vaccinating students from overseas in all schools in England against the human papilloma virus and *(b)* requiring contributions from such students towards the cost of such vaccinations. [275850]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are obliged by directions to offer the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine free of charge to all girls aged 12 to 13 years who are registered with a general practitioner (GP) or resident in their area, including any such girls from overseas. Girls and young women of other eligible ages up to 18 years old, including female students from overseas, who are registered patients of a GP are also entitled to receive HPV vaccine free of charge. PCTs are responsible for delivering the HPV programme in their area.

Influenza

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to assist *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* GP practices and *(c)* chemists in the event of a swine influenza pandemic. [273307]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has already provided a great deal of support to hospitals, practices and chemists in the form of guidance and on-going workshops to ensure that contingency and business continuity issues had been thought through in advance of a pandemic and addressed.

Copies of the relevant guidance have been placed in the Library. Guidance for pharmacists is in the process of being finalised and will be placed in the Library as soon as it is published.

We also supported the British Medical Association (BMA) and Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) in producing guidance for general practitioner practices which is available on the BMA and RCGP website at:

www.bma.org.uk/health_promotion_ethics/influenza/panfluguiddec08.jsp

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to implement its national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. [276392]

Dawn Primarolo: Since November 2007 (when the National Framework was published) the following key milestones have been delivered:

stockpiles of antivirals to cover 50 per cent. of the population have been ordered and are now in place. Contracts have been signed for the development of the 'Flu Line' which will ensure rapid deployment of antivirals to patients. Orders have been placed to increase the United Kingdom antiviral stockpile from 33.5 million to about 50 million, which would be enough to cover 80 per cent. of the population;

on 14 May the Government announced the signing of agreements with vaccine manufacturers for up to 90 million doses of a pre-pandemic vaccine based on the current H1N1 strain. The agreements could provide enough vaccine to protect the most vulnerable groups in our population before a pandemic is likely to arrive;

we are on course to have sufficient antibiotic stocks to cover 31 per cent. of the United Kingdom population (19.6 million courses) by the end of September 2009, with the stockpile reaching over 40 per cent. (6.3 million courses) by the end of May 2009;

we have placed orders for 226 million additional facemasks and 34 million additional respirators, to be delivered over time, for the use of frontline health and social care staff;

significantly, enhanced local planning is in place. Every NHS trust and Local Resilience Forum in England has validated pandemic specific plans in place. All LRF plans are available in the public domain, and can be accessed on the internet at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/pandemicflu/plans/regiona_plans.aspx

a suite of guidance documents have been published to aid planners in their preparations for an influenza pandemic. Most notably guidance has been published on the management of excess deaths, school closures, the local response, the health response, infection control, the judicial system and a checklist to aid businesses in pandemic planning. These are available on the UK resilience website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/pandemicflu/guidance.aspx

the Government launched its pandemic preparedness international strategy in November 2008. This strategy is the first of its kind and sets priorities for the UK Government's work with international organisations over the next three to five years. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 467W, on health services, in respect of which elective mental health services patients have the right to choose the organisation that provides their treatment; and what account will be taken of advance statements in the provision of care for those detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. [276018]

Phil Hope: The majority of patients, including those with mental health problems, are entitled to choose their provider when they are referred for their first consultant-led out-patient appointment. The right to choice does not extend beyond first out-patient appointment. Those detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 are excluded from the right to choice, but the code of practice to the Act specifies that

"[Decision-makers] must consider the patient's views, wishes and feelings (whether expressed at the time or in advance), so far as they are reasonably ascertainable, and follow those wishes wherever practicable and consistent with the purpose of the decision."

Mentally Ill: Prisoners

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners diagnosed with a mental illness in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. [276556]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Nutrition: EU Action

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals he has put forward at EU level to minimise the cost to UK industry of implementation of the EU Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [276129]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA), speaking on behalf of the United Kingdom, has made a number of proposals in relation to the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation aiming to achieve consumer protection through proportionate controls and help minimise the cost to UK industry. Highlights of these proposals include better definition of the scope of the

regulation, focusing only on beneficial claims in a commercial context; a solution to dealing with trade marks that are also claims with effective transitional arrangements; elimination of disproportionate prohibitions of claims about general well-being, references to psychological and behavioural functions, slimming and weight control, recommendations by health charities and claims aimed at children.

The UK argued for a process to reduce the burden of authorisation of health claims already on the market, and for new claims pushed the European Commission to meet its duty to make available technical guidance and tools to assist small and medium sized businesses in the preparation and presentation of applications for assessment of health claims by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). More recently, the UK proposed better transparency of EFSA's scientific assessment of health claims and secured a commitment from the Commission to improve access to the procedure.

Guidance to interpretation of the regulation from the Commission has helped industry understand how to apply some of the more ambiguous areas of the regulation and this grew from the FSA's own detailed guidance to compliance, which is used widely across the European Union.

We have also been successful in achieving appropriate transition periods to allow industry to adapt to the new regulations and we continue to champion better regulation as unforeseen issues arise during the implementation of this complex measure.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the savings which have accrued from the implementation of the new capacity improvement programme prescribing system since its introduction. [274735]

Dawn Primarolo: Current planning indicates that the National Health Service Business Services Authority's (NHSBSA) prescription processing service will deliver savings in financial year 2009-10 of £16 million compared with the cost of processing prescriptions using the previous system. Over the three financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10 the NHSBSA will accrue aggregate savings in operating costs of £25.8 million as a result of implementing the capacity improvement programme, based on 2006-07 operational cost.

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed by the Prescription Pricing Division in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2008. [274736]

Dawn Primarolo: The total number of people employed by the former Prescription Pricing Authority on 1 April 2005 was 2,782 and by the National Health Service Business Services Authority's Prescription Pricing Division on 31 March 2008 was 2,492. This decrease partly reflects the incorporation of the former Prescription Pricing Authority into the NHS Business Services Authority during this period.

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many compulsory redundancies have been made within the Prescription Pricing Division consequent upon the implementation of the new capacity improvement programme prescribing system. [274737]

Dawn Primarolo: Redundancies that occurred as a result of the implementation of the capacity improvement programme did not impact until after March 2008. Since then, there have been 686 redundancies resulting from the implementation of the capacity improvement programme. It is not possible to provide a precise figure on the number of redundancies defined as 'compulsory' because of the complex criteria agreed for achieving the reduction.

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff have been recruited by the Prescription Pricing Division to implement the new capacity improvement programme prescribing system. [R] [274738]

Dawn Primarolo: Around 40 information technology specialists were recruited to assist with the development and implementation of the new capacity improvement programme prescription processing system.

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the new capacity improvement programme prescribing system for the Prescription Pricing Division to be fully operational. [R] [274739]

Dawn Primarolo: Over 90 per cent. of the prescription processing workload, was processed on the national health service business services authority's new capacity improvement programme processing system from November 2008. There are plans for prescriptions dispensed by dispensing doctors and prescriptions personally administered by doctors to be processed on the new system from July 2009. Additionally, there are plans for appliance contractors' dispensing to be processed on the new system from April 2010. In aggregate, this represents approximately 99.5 per cent. of prescription processing work.

Rehabilitation: Lincolnshire

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding is being provided to the Middlegate detoxing and residential rehabilitation unit in Lincolnshire in 2009-10. [275903]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Places at Middlegate Lodge and other young people's substance misuse residential treatment facilities are primarily commissioned and funded by local authorities.

Government are providing £24.7 million to local authorities in 2009-10 to support such drug and alcohol treatment through the Pooled Treatment Budget and this is matched by additional funds from the area based grant according to local need.

Social Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's Green Paper on the future of adult social care. [276709]

Phil Hope: The Government announced in the Budget report that the Green Paper on care and support reform will be published in June 2009.

Swine Flu

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what quantities of pathogen-inactivated, a1H1N1-free blood products are held in the UK; whether his Department plans to adopt pathogen inactivation for all blood products for civilian and military use if the World Health Organisation designates the a1H1N1 outbreak a pandemic; and if he will make a statement; [276497]

(2) what his Department's plans are to ensure protection against the H1N1 strain of influenza type A; if he will take steps to ensure that UK blood stocks are H1N1-free; if his Department will fast-track consideration of pathogen inactivation for blood products by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs; and if he will make a statement. [276498]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answers I gave the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) and the hon. Member for Brighton Kemptown (Dr. Turner) on 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1084W.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the safe half-life of a drug intended for use as a sleeping tablet; what the half-life of nitrazepam is; and how many nitrazepam prescription items were dispensed in 2008. [276004]

Dawn Primarolo: Nitrazepam belongs to the class of medicines known as benzodiazepines. It is licensed for the short-term treatment of severe insomnia which is considered to be disabling or subjecting the individual to unacceptable distress, where daytime sedation is acceptable.

Nitrazepam acts in 30 to 60 minutes to produce sleep lasting six to eight hours. The half-life is, on average, 24 hours but depending on the individual can range from 16 to 38 hours. As a result nitrazepam has a prolonged action and may give rise to residual effects the following day, and repeated doses tend to be cumulative. Shorter acting agents are therefore preferable for the majority of patients requiring treatment for insomnia.

The half-life of a drug intended for use as a sleeping tablet is only one of many factors that influences the safe use of a medicine. Information to aid the safe use of nitrapezam is provided in the product information which consists of the Summary of Product Characteristics for healthcare professionals and the Patient Information Leaflet. These are available on the internet at

www.medicines.org.uk/

Additional prescribing advice is provided in the British National Formulary, which is sent to all doctors within the national health service.

Guidance on the safe use of benzodiazepines has been issued by the Department on a number of occasions; the focus of this advice has been on the need for restriction of use to short-term only. In the case of nitrazepam the recommended treatment period varies from a few days to two weeks with a maximum of four weeks including the tapering off process.

Based on information obtained from the Prescription Cost Analysis database it has been estimated that 1,172,799 prescription items of nitrazepam were dispensed in the community in England during 2008. This figure does not include items which may have been dispensed within a hospital setting.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff his Department shares with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [274066]

Mr. Simon: 13 members of staff work in the Joint Apprenticeships Unit which reports to both DIUS and DCSF. They are employed by DIUS on DIUS terms and conditions.

Since DIUS was established, the DCSF has also provided some services under a shared agreement.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each year since its creation. [274219]

Mr. Simon: The information is not available in the form requested and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each year since its creation. [274482]

Mr. Simon: The information is stated in the following table.

	School pupils	*University students and graduates*
2007	4	4
2008	5	5

The Department is currently in the process of planning its own work experience programme for 2009.

Education: Statistics

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what data on education and skills his Department collects at lower layer super output area level. [275353]

Mr. Simon: DIUS collects a variety of information which in theory is capable of being analysed at lower layer super output area (SOA) as it includes the postcode of the business, provider or learner (see Table 1). In many cases, however, the data is not suitable for analysis, or not routinely made available, at this geographic level.

Lower layer SOA is generally only used as a building block to aggregate data to higher level geographies. Very few datasets allow for meaningful analysis to be produced by lower layer SOA (there are over 32,000 lower layer SOAs in England). Even where this is possible, significant work may be involved in establishing a suitable method for presentation and in resolving other statistical issues such as avoiding disclosure. Therefore, data may not be fit for purpose at lower layer SOA under National Statistics protocols.

Table 1 provides details of education and skills data collected by, or on behalf of, the Department which includes information by postcode of business, provider or learner. It also provides information on the level of geography which is currently released.

Table 1: Data used by DIUS which could in theory be analysed at lower layer super output area

Data	*Collected by*	*Geographies available*
UK Innovation Survey	ONS on behalf of DIUS	Not published below regional level although independent analysts have derived various sub-regional geographies.
Individualised Learner Record (Further Education, Work Based Learning, Train to Gain learner information)	Data Service	Published by parliamentary constituency, local authority, region, England.
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record	HESA	Published by parliamentary constituency, local authority, region, England, UK. Can produce data on Lower and Middle Layer SOAs. This is not generally published although the HESA Information Provision Service can provide this to customers on request.
Student Support Applications from Student Loans Company (SLC) data	SLC	Generally published for England. Some local authority figures can be produced.
Applicants to full-time undergraduate HE courses	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)	Published by parliamentary constituency, local authority, region, England, UK. UCAS has provided SOA level information to organisations (e.g. local authorities) on request and some of those have published reports based on the information.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place to verify addresses given by recipients of penalty notices for disorder. [276121]

Mr. Straw: The Government issue operational guidance on the issuing of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) to police forces under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. This guidance sets out the criteria which should be considered by police officers before issuing PNDs and includes a section on identification, making it clear that a PND may be issued only where sufficient evidence of place of residence exists. The guidance says:

"Accurate identification of suspects and their place of residence are...*critical* to the effectiveness of the [PND] scheme...*address checks must be rigorous*" (emphasis in original).

Children: Abuse

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged 21 years and over with a previous conviction have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for offences relating to child abuse in each year since 1997. [276187]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of offenders aged 21 and over convicted for offences relating to child abuse England and Wales, and the number with previous convictions, 2000 to 2007[1,2,3]

		Number of convictions
		Of which:
	Convictions for offences relating to child abuse[1,2,3]	*Number of convictions where the offender had one or more previous convictions for offences of any kind*
2000	617	362
2001	554	306
2002	616	340
2003	701	383
2004	808	437
2005	1,012	536
2006	1,143	628
2007	1,175	639

[1] Figures are counts of primary offences only.
[2] An offender convicted on several occasions will appear in the table more than once.
[3] Includes cruelty or neglect of a child; abandoning a child under two years; rape or sexual assault of a child or sexual activity involving a child, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (which came into effect on 1 May 2004); causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person (introduced on 21 March 2005).

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police. PNC data has been used here rather than court proceedings data, which is the usual source of published conviction statistics, as the PNC provides information on the criminal history of offenders. Figures before 2000 have not been provided as the extract of PNC data held by the Ministry of Justice is incomplete before that date.

Equivalent figures for offenders who have been prosecuted are not available.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those aged 21 years or over convicted of offences relating to child abuse received *(a)* immediate custody, *(b)* a suspended sentence, *(c)* a community sentence, *(d)* a fine, *(e)* a conditional or absolute discharge and *(f)* other treatment in each year since 1997. [276231]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is shown in the table, the proportion of those given various disposals is shown as a percentage of those sentenced. Lags in time between conviction and sentencing may mean that the total numbers convicted and sentenced in a year may not match. Data held by the Ministry of Justice record the age of the offender at the time of sentencing, the figures show all offenders aged over 21 and over at that point.

There is no specific offence of 'child abuse'. The term 'child abuse' describes harm caused to a child arising from emotional, physical and sexual abuse or neglect caused by a parent or carer.

The statistics provided in this answer are for those offences currently identified as such, including causing or allowing the death of a child, sexual assaults against under 16s, and cruelty or neglect of a child. Not included are other forms of abuse for which there is no separate legal category, offences where the victim cannot be identified as a child from the type of offence, and cases of abuse which cannot be identified because they were proceeded against under more general offences such as physical assault.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Percentage[1] of offenders sentenced to disposals for child abuse, 1997 to 2007

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Abandoning child under 2 years	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50.0	—
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 27	Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Community sentence	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—	50.0	—
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Immediate custody	—	100.0	—	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
	Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total number sentenced	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with children[2]	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.1	—	—
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S16(1ei,2-5). S16(1eii,2-5), S17(1ei,2-5). S18(1fi,2-5), S19(1ei,2-5), S17(1eii,2-5)	Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Community sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40.0	14.3	31.3	26.7
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.3	12.5	20.0
	Immediate custody	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60.0	64.3	56.3	53.3
	Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total number sentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	14	16	15
Causing or allowing death of a child or vulnerable person	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5	Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Community sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Immediate custody	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0
	Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.0

Percentage[1] of offenders sentenced to disposals for child abuse, 1997 to 2007

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Total number sentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6
Cruelty or neglect of children	Absolute or conditional Discharge	16.0	14.4	10.0	13.2	9.6	10.6	13.4	12.1	11.3	11.0	8.6
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 Sec 1	Fine	1.7	1.1	2.0	0.5	1.6	0.5	1.5	2.1	1.8	1.1	1.6
	Community sentence	45.7	52.1	54.1	51.4	53.1	53.1	53.9	55.3	53.0	45.6	40.0
	Suspended Sentence	5.4	3.4	5.9	5.3	4.3	5.5	3.7	4.9	10.6	17.1	30.1
	Immediate custody	30.0	28.9	27.0	28.8	30.4	30.0	27.4	25.3	22.8	24.3	18.8
	Otherwise dealt with	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.9	0.9
	Total number sentenced	350	353	440	416	375	397	456	486	434	445	432
Rape of a female under 13 by a male[2]	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5	Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Community sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.9	3.6
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.1	—	3.6
	Immediate custody	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	93.8	96.1	92.7
	Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.1	—	—
	Total number sentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	32	51	55
Rape of a female under 16	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4	—	—	—
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1 also Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.1	Fine	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Community sentence	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	—	1.0	—	0.4	1.0	—	0.9
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4	—	—	—	—
	Immediate custody	98.8	99.0	99.5	98.4	99.4	99.0	99.1	98.8	98.1	99.5	98.2
	Otherwise dealt with	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.9
	Total number sentenced	162	199	219	186	160	196	225	252	206	191	217
Rape of a male under 13 by a male[2]	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Community sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18.2	9.1
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Immediate custody	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	72.7	90.9
	Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	9.1	—
	Total number sentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	11	11
Rape of a male under 16	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Percentage[1] of offenders sentenced to disposals for child abuse, 1997 to 2007

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1 also Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.1	Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Community sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Immediate custody	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	95.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	94.7
	Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.5	—	—	—	5.3
	Total number sentenced	15	12	20	13	17	25	22	20	20	11	19
Sexual activity involving a child[2]	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.9	0.7	1.3
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.8(1)(2)(1)(3), S.10(1a,b,ci)(3), S.9(1a,b,cii)(2), S.9(1a,b,cii)(3), S. l0(1a,b,c(ii)) (2), S.10 (1a,b,c(ii))(3)	Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	—	—
	Community sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47.4	37.5	20.5	22.3
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	3.8	7.5	7.0
	Immediate custody	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52.6	54.8	68.5	68.2
	Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.7	1.3
	Total number sentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	104	146	157
Sexual assault of a female child under 13[2]	Absolute or conditional Discharge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.6	0.8	—	2.1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7	Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Community sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33.3	33.6	20.4	16.5
	Suspended Sentence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.1	2.5	8.8	11.7
	Immediate custody	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44.4	62.3	66.3	69.1
	Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.6	0.8	4.4	0.5
	Total number sentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	122	181	188

[1] The figures used are shown as a percentage of those sentenced. Lags in time between sentencing and conviction may mean the numbers sentenced and convicted in a year may not match.
[2] These were enacted as distinct offences by the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much Francis Plowden will be remunerated for leading the review of the effect of court fees in child protection. [274256]

Mr. Straw: Francis Plowden's remuneration is likely to be approximately £40,000, depending on the total number of days work needed to complete the review.

Convictions: Somalis

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of criminal convictions were handed down to Somali nationals in the last year for which figures are available. [276255]

Maria Eagle: Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not include nationality of the defendant.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269865]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice reviews its assets both regularly throughout the year and annually as part of its year end closure. For the year 2008-09 the annual review was completed in early April 2009. The review was not undertaken specifically for the purpose of identifying disposals, but informs the Department's approach to asset management and disposal.

Family Proceedings: Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what impact assessment his Department undertook before taking the decision to reduce the family legal aid budget; and what the outcomes of that assessment were; [273675]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on the Department for Children, Schools and Families' long-term expenditure commitments of his Department's decision to reduce the budget for family legal aid; [273663]

(3) what discussions he had with Treasury Ministers before the decision was taken to reduce the family legal aid budget. [273666]

Bridget Prentice: We have not reduced the family legal aid budget. The cost of family legal aid increased by 46 per cent. from £399 million in 2001-02 to £582 million in 2007-08, while the number of funding certificates fell by 11 per cent., from 129,000 to 115,000 over the same period. We clearly stated our intention to make reforms to family fees in 'Legal Aid Reform: The Way Ahead', published in November 2006, following Lord Carter's review of legal aid procurement. The 'Way Ahead' proposals were subject to Cabinet committee clearance and were integral to MOJ's spending review settlement.

My noble Friend Lord Bach announced changes to the Family Graduated Fee Scheme for barristers in February, following a 30 per cent. rise in costs in just five years. The consultation response included a full impact assessment. More recently, the consultation, 'Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010', published by my Department and the Legal Services Commission, closed on 3 April 2009. The Legal Services Commission is currently analysing the responses. The consultation covers two payment schemes, the 'Private Family Law Representation Scheme', and the 'Family Advocacy Scheme', which will cover representation by solicitors and counsel in independent practice. This consultation document included a draft impact assessment.

Our aim is to help as many people as possible within existing resources. In both cases the impact assessments have demonstrated that failing to address the significant increases in fees paid in recent years could risk leading to reductions in services for clients.

Land Registry: Fraud

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convictions there have been for offences of property title theft in respect of *(a)* mortgaged, *(b)* non-mortgaged and *(c)* vacant properties in each of the last 10 years; [275156]

(2) how many convictions there have been for offences of fraud in relation to property leases in each of the last 10 years; [275157]

(3) how many convictions for offences of property transfer fraud there have been in each of the last 10 years; [275161]

(4) how many convictions for offences of mortgage fraud there have been in each of the last 10 years; [275162]

(5) how many convictions for offences related to property fraud there were in each of the last 10 years. [275168]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for 'obtaining a property by deception' in England and Wales, for the years 1998 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

The Fraud Act 2006 which was implemented in January 2007 repealed eight sections of the Theft Acts 1968-1996, including section 15 of the Theft Act 1968, Obtaining property by deception.

The statistics provided in this answer are for fraud offences where either the statute or the offence description identifies the fraud as solely relating to either 'property fraud' or 'mortgage fraud'. A number of other fraud offences may include 'property or mortgage fraud', but as the individual circumstances of the offence are not held on the court proceedings database maintained by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, it is not possible to separately identify them.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Theft Act 1968 Section 15, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[1,2,3,4]

Statute	Offence description	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[r]
Theft Act 1968 Sec 15	Obtaining property by deception	11,438	11,478	10,430	9,438	9,354	8,457	7,519	6,472	5,080	2,470

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
[3] However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] The Fraud Act 2006 repealed S15 of the Theft Act 1968 and was implemented in January 2007.
[5] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.
Our ref: PQ 275156, 275157, 275161, 275162, and 275168 (Table)

National Offender Management Information System

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Minister authorised the appointment of each Senior Responsible Owner of the C-NOMIS project. [276031]

Mr. Straw: Ministers are not normally involved in the appointment of Senior Responsible Owners and this was the case in regards to the C-NOMIS Project and its successor, the NOMIS Programme.

Negligence: NHS

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in how many legally-aided clinical negligence claims cases the Legal Services Commission was unable to reclaim costs from the NHS Litigation Authority in the last 12 months; [276032]

(2) how many legally-aided clinical negligence claims in 2008 related to incidents in each of the previous 10 years; [276033]

(3) in how many clinical negligence claims the claimant received legal aid in the last year for which information is available. [276034]

Mr. Straw: The Legal Services Commission's case management system, does not record defence organisations. A manual examination of all clinical negligence case files closed in the last 12 months might not identify the NHS Litigation Authority in every instance, and such an exercise could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

In 2007-08, 1,926 certificates were issued to take proceedings in clinical negligence cases and 65 per cent. resulted in a substantive benefit to the client with costs recovered. The remaining 2,714 cases were funded up to an investigation stage, without proceedings being issued.

The Legal Services Commission's case management system does not record the date(s) on which an incident took place in clinical negligence cases. A manual examination of all case files closed in 2008 might not reveal the date(s) on which the incident took place in every instance, and such an examination could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

3,883 claims for clinical negligence received legal aid funding in the financial year 2008-09.

Offences Against Children: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders aged 21 years or over received *(a)* immediate custody, *(b)* a suspended sentence *(c)* a community sentence, *(d)* a fine, *(e)* a conditional or absolute discharge and *(f)* other treatment for rape or attempted rape of a child under the age of 13 years in each year since 2004. [276444]

Mr. Straw: The available information is shown in the following table.

Figures for year 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Data provided relate to offences of rape and attempted rape of a child less than 13 years of age under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.5 which commenced for offences committed from 1 May 2004 and replaced what was called prior to that unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13.

Records on offences of rape and attempted rape committed before the new provision came into force do not identify separately children under 13 years from those aged under 16 and therefore they are not included. The increased numbers over the years reflect the transition to the new legislation. As data held by the Ministry of Justice record the age of the offender at the time of sentencing, the figures show all offenders aged over 21 and over at that point.

Number of offenders aged 21 years and over sentenced for rape[1] or attempted rape[2] of a child under the age of 13 years by type of sentence in England and Wales, 2004-07

Type of sentence	2004	2005	2006	2007
Conditional or Absolute discharge	..	..	..	..
Fine	..	..	..	..
Community sentence	..	..	4	4
Suspended sentence[3]	..	1	..	2
Immediate custody	3	30	59	63
Otherwise dealt with	..	1	1	..
Total	3	37	64	69

[1] offences under Sexual offences Act 2003 s.5 which came into force on 1 May 2004:
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male.
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male.
Attempted rape of a female child under 13 by a male.
Attempted rape of a male child under 13 by a male.
[3] Introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into force on 4 April 2005 and replaced the previous fully suspended sentence. It applies only to persons aged 18 and over.
Notes:
The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prison Accommodation

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to provide additional prison capacity if his proposed new prisons do not obtain planning permission. [276048]

Mr. Straw: As is normal, we would consider the options available to us in the event we are unable to obtain planning permission for the new prisons.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in England were held in cells shared with two or more other inmates in 2008. [276257]

Mr. Hanson: On Friday 27 June 2008 2,676 prisoners out of 83,243 were recorded as sharing any accommodation such as cells, rooms, wards and dormitories with two or more people in prisons in England.

The data available does not allow for a breakdown of prisoners sharing by individual accommodation types.

Data on HMP/YOI Ashfield is not held centrally and therefore information relating to this establishment is not included in these figures.

Male Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many male prisoners were recategorised as a result of Prison Service Instruction 2008-007. [276036]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not recorded centrally. To provide this would require the manual examination of individual prisoner records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Dagenham

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what plans there are for providing emergency service access to the proposed prison at Beam Park West; [276047]

(2) how many prison service vehicles will require access to the Beam Park West site on a daily basis. [276049]

Mr. Straw: Emergency service access to the proposed prison at Beam Park West will be considered during the design process.

This prison would be a closed prison, holding category B or C prisoners. It is not intended that it should hold any category A (high security) prisoners, nor category D prisoners (low security, open prison). However, no decisions have yet been made on the function of the proposed prison. We are therefore currently unable to estimate how many HMPS vehicles will require access to the site each day.

Prior to the submission of planning permission, a public exhibition will be held detailing the proposals.

Remand Centres

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which premises in each primary care trust area have been approved for holding those on remand. [276019]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows those prisons in England and Wales that hold prisoners on remand and their corresponding Primary Care Trusts and in Wales their Local Health Boards.

Prison with Remand Function	*PCT/Local Health Board*
Altcourse	Liverpool PCT
Ashfield	South Gloucestershire PCT
Bedford	Bedfordshire PCT
Belmarsh	Greenwich Teaching PCT
Birmingham	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT
Bristol	South Staffordshire PCT
Brixton	Bristol PCT
Bronzefield	Lambeth PCT
Bullingdon	Surrey PCT
Cardiff	Oxfordshire PCT
Castington	Cardiff Local Health Board
Chelmsford	Northumberland Care Trust
Cookham Wood	Mid Essex PCT
Doncaster	Medway PCT
Dorchester	Doncaster PCT
Downview	Dorset PCT
Durham	Surrey PCT
Eastwood Park	County Durham PCT
Elmley	South Gloucestershire PCT
Exeter	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT
Feltham	Devon PCT
Forest Bank	Hounslow PCT
Foston Hall	Salford PCT
Glen Parva	Derbyshire County PCT
Gloucester	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT
Hewell	Gloucestershire PCT
Highdown	Worcestershire PCT
Hindley	Surrey PCT
Holloway	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Holme House	Islington PCT
Hull	Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT
Lancaster Farms	Hull Teaching PCT
Leeds	North Lancashire Teaching PCT
Leicester	Leeds PCT
Lewes	Leicester City PCT
Lincoln	East Sussex, Downs and Weald PCT
Liverpool	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT
Long Lartin	Liverpool PCT
Low Newton	Worcestershire PCT
Manchester	County Durham PCT
New Hall	Manchester PCT
Norwich	Wakefield District PCT
Nottingham	Norfolk PCT
Parc	Nottingham City PCT
Parkhurst	Bridgend Local Health Board
Pentonville	Isle of Wight NHS PCT
Peterborough	Islington PCT
Preston	Peterborough PCT
Reading	Central Lancashire PCT
Shrewsbury	Berkshire West PCT
Stoke Heath	Shropshire County PCT
Styal	Shropshire County PCT
Swansea	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT
Wakefield	Swansea Local Health Board
Wandsworth	Wakefield District PCT
Warren Hill	Wandsworth PCT
Wetherby	Suffolk PCT
Winchester	Leeds PCT
	Hampshire PCT

Prison with Remand Function	PCT/Local Health Board
Woodhill	Milton Keynes PCT
Wormwood Scrubs	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT

Stannary Law

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1673, on politics and government: South West region, whether any parts of Stannary Law still exist as part of the law of England and Wales. [276568]

Mr. Wills: The body of Stannary customary law has not been systematically repealed. It is likely however that such customary law has been superseded by modern legislation. There were also provisions in 19th century primary legislation relating to the stannaries, but these have largely been repealed.

Voting Methods

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his European counterparts in other EU member states on voting methods for Parliamentary and local government elections in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [276176]

Mr. Wills: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have held any discussions with either the European Commission or our counterparts in other EU member states on methods of voting for parliamentary and local government elections in the UK.

Young Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those aged under 18 years were sentenced for *(a)* drug offences and *(b)* criminal damage in each year since 1997. [276228]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is shown in the table:

Offenders aged under 18 sentenced for drug offences or criminal damage at all courts, 1997 to 2007

	Offence type	
	Criminal damage	Drug offences
1997	2,255	1,845
1998	2,290	2,748
1999	2,682	3,107
2000	2,576	3,739
2001	2,897	4,342
2002	2,908	4,958
2003	2,946	5,144
2004	3,234	4,479
2005	3,274	4,626
2006	3,678	4,460
2007	3,623	5,263

Notes:
1. These data are based on the principle offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principle offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principle offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
3. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Data held by the Ministry of Justice record the age of the offender at the point of sentencing the answer given shows all those aged under 18 at that point.

Young Offenders: Crime Prevention

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Youth Justice Board allocated to preventive programmes in each year since 1999. [276227]

Mr. Straw: Information from the Youth Justice Board shows that they allocated the following sums for programmes working to prevent offending and antisocial behaviour by young people.

	£ million
1999-2000	1
2000-01	6
2001-02	8
2002-03	18
2003-04	10
2004-05	10
2005-06	13
2006-07	26
2007-08	38
2008-09	36

Note:
Figures are all rounded to the nearest million pounds

These programmes include Youth Inclusion and Support Panels, Youth Inclusion Programmes, Safer Schools Partnerships, Splash Cymru, work to prevent antisocial behaviour (including Individual Support Order interventions) and parenting provision.

The figures do not include funding for the Youth Justice Board programmes for reducing reoffending such as the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programme and Intensive Fostering.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Databases

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the data fields on the ContactPoint database are; and if he will make a statement. [268459]

Beverley Hughes: The data fields in ContactPoint contain information supplied by each data source. The data sources are listed in schedules 4 and 5 of the ContactPoint regulations and section 12(9) of the Children Act 2004. Some fields can hold multiple entries; for example where two addresses are known. Every ContactPoint record is made up of the information from each supplying source. The data fields listed here are collected from these data sources.

Demographic information

Child Name/Gender/Date of birth/Address

Parent/Carer name and contact details

Universal services

Contact details for General Practitioner/school or other educational setting/midwife (if any)/health visitor (if any)/school nurse (if any)

Additional (Targeted / Specialist) services

Name and contact details

Contact details for the lead professional (if any)

Contact details of the practitioner who has completed the most recent assessment under the Common Assessment Framework (if any).

Citizenship: Education

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of training for teachers on the teaching of citizenship in the last three years; [275907]

(2) whether any recent assessment has been made of the consistency of the standard of citizenship education in schools; [275912]

(3) what steps have been taken to improve the teaching of citizenship in secondary schools following the finding by Ofsted in September 2006 that one in four secondary schools failed to offer pupils adequate citizenship teaching; [275913]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the quality of teaching of citizenship in schools; and what steps he is taking to improve the standard of such teaching; [275925]

(5) what steps his Department has taken in response to the finding in the February 2005 Ofsted Report, Citizenship in Secondary Schools: Evidence from Ofsted Inspections that the provision of citizenship education was unsatisfactory in one in four schools. [276495]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are committed to providing high quality training for teachers of citizenship.

In 2006, we introduced a nationally funded programme of continuing professional development for teachers, including a 'Certificate in the Teaching of Citizenship', which is available to all citizenship teachers.

The certificate is designed to help serving teachers improve their knowledge, skills and understanding of the citizenship curriculum Ofsted has recently evaluated the national CPD programme. Its report, published in February 2009 commented on the high quality of the training, but noted a shortfall in recruitment. We have appointed the university of Plymouth, a specialist provider of Citizenship education, to develop and promote improved take up of the programme better to meet the needs of teachers and schools.

Ofsted's next report on Citizenship as a subject is due to be published in the autumn.

A three-year package of support for the effective implementation of the new secondary curriculum, including Citizenship, has been made available to all secondary schools from September 2008.

The Training and Development Agency TDA has designed a Self-Evaluation for providers of initial teacher training (ITT) courses. Information from providers' self-evaluation, including those offering the Citizenship postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE), is used to inform Ofsted inspections.

13 Higher Education Institutions provide secondary Citizenship ITT. 11 of these have been categorised as good or very good by Ofsted.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what training is available for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers on the teaching of citizenship; [275908]

(2) what plans he has to encourage the recruitment of specialist trained citizenship teachers by secondary schools; [275926]

(3) what guidance his Department gives to local authorities on *(a)* the recruitment of specialist trained citizenship teachers by secondary schools and *(b)* specialist training for secondary school teachers in the teaching of citizenship. [275927]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since the introduction of citizenship education in 2002, over 800 teachers have completed initial teacher training courses to become specialist citizenship teachers. We have maintained the number of places available for citizenship secondary initial teacher training, for 2009/10 academic year, despite the decline in the number of pupils in schools. In primary initial teacher training, Citizenship is addressed as part of the full spectrum of the primary curriculum. The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) also supports the quality of Citizenship ITT by providing access to specialist subject knowledge for ITT tutors, mentors and trainees.

The Department has funded, since 2006, the national Citizenship continuing professional development (CPD) programme designed to help teachers deepen and broaden their knowledge and confidence in delivering the citizenship curriculum effectively.

The TDA is also supporting the continuing professional development of citizenship teachers by enabling them to identify appropriate training and development. They are currently piloting a CPD database—designed to be a first port of call for anyone looking for CPD opportunities, from teachers and support staff to those who search for CPD on their behalf, such as CPD leaders and local authority coordinators.

The Department does not provide guidance on the recruitment or training of Citizenship teachers.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken to ensure effective teaching of the Identity and Diversity: Living Together in the UK strand of citizenship education in all secondary schools. [275911]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have strengthened citizenship education to ensure that young people explore their own identity and issues around diversity. Schools are encouraged to embed citizenship across the school and to integrate themes such as cultural diversity in all subjects. A three-year package of support for the effective implementation of the new secondary curriculum, including the new Identity and Diversity strand of the Citizenship curriculum, has been made available to all secondary schools from September 2008.

Last year, the Department supported a project to develop identity and diversity resources for schools to help them to develop this aspect of the curriculum by taking part in "Who Do We Think We Are" week. The week, which took place in June 2008, encouraged schools to help their pupils to explore shared values and what it means for different religions, cultures and ethnicities to live together in an inclusive British society. Around 500 schools across the country took part in the project and we are encouraging all schools, to participate in the "Who Do We Think We Are" week in June 2009.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department provides to maintained faith schools on the teaching of citizenship; [275914]

(2) what proportion of maintained faith schools teach citizenship. [275915]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Citizenship is part of the statutory national curriculum for secondary schools. All maintained secondary schools, including maintained faith schools, are required to teach the issues set out in the key stage 3 and 4 programmes of study.

The Department does not provide guidance on teaching Citizenship, but the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) provides a range of guidance on all curriculum subjects, including Citizenship, to support schools.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many written pieces of guidance to schools were issued by his Department in each of the last nine years. [276510]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested by the hon. Member was provided on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 181W, and remains unchanged.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275976]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested details of review and taskforce projects commissioned by the Department and its predecessor cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274207]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was created as a result of the Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Prior to June 2007, it was Department for Education and Skills (DFES). The spend figures are from office supplies purchased via the Department's contract with Banner Business Services (BBS) in the last five years was as follows:

£

	Recycled office supplies	*Printer Ink Cartridges*
2008-09	74,277	34,845
2007-08	141,081	141,731
2006-07	17,348	27,217
2005-06	[1]	[1]
2004-05	[1]	[1]

[1] Only available at disproportionate costs

The figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 have been archived by the contractor and can only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

The figures since June 2007 also includes a portion of spend for Department for Universities and Skills DIUS (former DFES staff only). To separate this data would involve disproportionate cost.

The figures for printer ink cartridges also include remanufactured products.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274548]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is not possible to separately identify what the Department spends on health and safety compliance. The management of health and safety in the Department involves a number of differing elements, each of which forms part of a wider service function.

Primary Education: St Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment his Department has made of the potential to increase the number of primary school places in central St Albans; and if he will make a statement. [276363]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not made any assessment of the potential to increase the number of primary school places in central St. Albans. That is the local authority's role. Hertfordshire local authority is responsible for planning school places in St. Albans. It is under a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available to meet local needs.

Pupils: Nationality

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department collects on the nationality of pupils in schools. [276436]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information on the nationality of pupils in schools.

Young People: Voluntary Work

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 598-9W, on young people: voluntary work, what criteria will apply in the selection of local authorities to pilot options to increase the proportion of young people participating in community service. [276180]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We envisage running the pilots with local authorities (LAs) in partnership with their secondary schools, the voluntary and community sector in their areas and with relevant agencies. Criteria for selection will include evidence that schools are keen to take part, evidence of the existing level of community service among 14 to 16-year-olds and the prospects for building on that to create a universal expectation and credible plans for involving young people in designing the local arrangements for community service.

Schools: Bullying

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students were suspended from schools following racist incidents in *(a)* Leicester City local education authority and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [273582]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information on the number of fixed period exclusions (not the number of students) where the reason for exclusion is "racist abuse" is shown in the following tables. This is the only reason for exclusion that relates specifically to racism; however, racist incidents could be included in other categories, such as "physical assault against a pupil". A pupil can be excluded more than once and these can be for different reasons.

Reasons for exclusions were recorded for the first time in 2003/04, and the most recent year available is 2006/07; information for 2007/08 is scheduled to be published in the summer. Data collected in 2003/04 and 2004/05 via the Termly Exclusions Survey did not include non-maintained special schools; data collected in 2006/07 via the School Census included both maintained and non-maintained special schools. This difference in scope and the change in collection mechanism mean that caution is needed when comparing results from the two sources. In 2005/06, data on fixed period exclusions were collected from secondary schools only.

Primary, secondary and special schools1 number and proportion of fixed period exclusions for racist abuse 2003/04 to 2006/07, England and Leicester City LA

	2003/04[2]			2004/05[2]		
	Primary[3]	Secondary[3,4]	Special[5]	Primary[3]	Secondary[3,4]	Special[5]
Leicester City LA						
Number of exclusions[6]	0	10	x	x	20	0
Proportion[8]	0.00	0.37	0.67	0.63	0.83	0.00
England						
Number of exclusions[7]	280	2,220	130	330	2,940	120
Proportion[9]	0.67	0.77	0.83	0.76	0.89	0.73

	2005/06[1]			2006/07[1]		
	Primary[3]	Secondary[3,4]	Special	Primary[3]	Secondary[3,4]	Special[5]
Leicester City LA						
Number of exclusions[6]	n/a	20	n/a	10	20	0
Proportion[8]	—	0.63	—	1.49	0.68	0.00
England						
Number of exclusions[7]	n/a	3,400	n/a	350	3,790	230
Proportion[9]	n/a	0.97	n/a	0.75	1.04	1.39

'n/a' = not available
'x' = less than five
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from the Termly Exclusions Survey.
[3] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from the School Census.
[4] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[5] Includes maintained special schools only.
[6] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[7] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[8] Number of fixed period exclusions where the reason for exclusion was racist abuse.
[9] Number of fixed period exclusions where the reason for exclusion was racist abuse as a proportion of all fixed period exclusions by area and phase.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications within the Legacy Directorate programme have yet to be processed; and what her latest assessment is of performance under the programme. [276161]

Mr. Woolas: As of 9 January the UK Border Agency had concluded 155,500 older asylum cases. The previous Home Secretary informed Parliament in July 2006 of "the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's case load of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records". These documents are riddled with duplication and errors, and include cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens. It is, therefore, not possible to provide an accurate assessment of how many cases are yet to be processed. The Chief Executive of the Agency will update the Home Affairs Select Committee on case conclusion performance in the summer.

Asylum: Bahrain

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 850W, on asylum: Bahrain, what sources of information about Bahrain were used in assessing the applications for asylum of *(a)* Abdul Raouf Shayeb and *(b)* Musa Abd Ali Mohammed, in the absence of UK Border Agency country specific guidance. [273800]

Mr. Woolas: Information from individual records is confidential and cannot be disclosed to a third party without the authority of the individuals concerned. In the absence of specific country guidance, UK Border Agency case owners have access to country of origin (COI) information produced by the Home Office COI Service from a wide range of reliable external information sources including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, human rights organisations, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations such as Amnesty International, news media and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Borders: Security

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many IRIS machines are installed at UK borders; how many were working throughout the first three months of 2009; how many instances of equipment failure have been recorded since the installation of these machines; and how many people have registered on the IRIS system. [274297]

Mr. Woolas: There are 12 IRIS machines in operation at 10 airport terminals: Heathrow terminals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; Manchester terminals 1 and 2; Birmingham terminal 1 and Gatwick North and South.

The recorded barrier availability figures for the first three months of 2009 are:

	Percentage availability
January	97.31
February	98.02
March	98.90

It is not possible to isolate the number of instances of equipment failure from other faults. However, between January 2008 and March 2009, the overall availability of the IRIS system has been 95.36 per cent.

The number of passenger crossings has now reached the 2 million milestone. To date, 299,975 people have enrolled on the IRIS system.

Crime Prevention

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for introduction of public service agreements on *(a)* making communities safer and *(b)* reducing the harm caused by alcohol and drugs. [273030]

Jacqui Smith: The delivery agreements for the public service agreements (PSA) for the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 were published by HM Treasury in October 2007 and came into effect in March 2008. This included a PSA for making communities safer and reducing the harm caused by alcohol and drugs.

Progress towards delivery is reported annually in the Departmental Annual Report and the Autumn Performance Report.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by her Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [275177]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 May 2009]:* We do not hold the information requested. The pay received by temporary staff and other contractors engaged in London and elsewhere through supply agencies is a matter between the suppliers and their employees, subject to employment laws.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275253]

Mr. Woolas: In the Home Office HQ and the UK Border Agency, non-consolidated performance related payments are awarded to individuals at Grade 6 and below who have made an exceptional contribution throughout the year. Under the current arrangements up to 35 per cent. of staff in these grades may receive a non-consolidated performance related payment. The total amount paid to staff in 2008-09 was £3,486,925 and the number of payments made was 6,036 (relating to staff performance for the year 2007-08). The total pay bill was c.£750 million, of which 0.5 per cent. was used for non-consolidated performance payments to staff.

Staff in the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) can receive end of year corporate non-consolidated performance related payments and change agent payments (for Grade 6 and 7's only). The total amount paid to staff in 2008-09 was £1,537,113 and the number of payments made was 4,054 (relating to staff performance for the year 2007-08). The total pay bill was £103,690,330 of which 1.48 per cent. was used for non-consolidated performance payments.

Staff in the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) do not receive end of year performance related payments.

The criteria for awarding senior civil servants with end of year non-consolidated performance payments are set by the Prime Minister following independent advice from the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB). The level of these payments takes into account a number of factors including individual performance against agreed priority business objectives and targets. The total amount paid to SCS staff in the Home Office and its Agencies in 2008-09 was £1,264,000 and the number of payments made was 128 (relating to staff performance for the year 2007-08). The total pay bill was £14,330,946 of which 8.6 per cent. was used for non-consolidated performance payments. The Government have responded to current economic conditions by freezing the size of the SCS non-consolidated pot (for 2008-09).

All such non-consolidated performance related payments in the Home Office and its agencies are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined performance standards and targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274577]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows.

(a) All available information for the last 12 months is set out as follows:

Product type	*Cost (£)*
Paper products April 2008-March 2009	644,000
General stationery June 2008-April 2009	137,716
Computer consumables June 2008-January 2009	611,333

(b) The requested information is not held centrally in the Home Office and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the deportation of women to countries where forced genital mutilation is practised. [274003]

Mr. Woolas: UKBA may enforce the removal of any individual whose claim to remain in the UK has failed.

An individual makes a claim to remain in the UK, setting out the reasons for their claim, including any fear of genital mutilation. That claim is considered in full and a decision is made as to whether the individual would qualify for refugee status or humanitarian protection because of a well-founded fear that she will be subjected to female genital mutilation on her return to the country of origin, and there is evidence that this practice is knowingly tolerated by the authorities or they are unable to offer effective protection, and that there is no reasonable possibility that she would be able to avoid the threat by moving elsewhere within the country.

If this claim is refused and the courts do not uphold any appeal against such a decision the individual will be expected to leave the United Kingdom. If she does not do so voluntarily we will seek to enforce return.

Detection Rates

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date her Department's public service agreement target in relation to detections will be amended to provide that minor crimes will no longer count towards the target. [272991]

Jacqui Smith: There is no public service agreement target on police detections.

Public Service Agreement 24, that came into effect in March 2008, seeks the efficiency and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in bringing offences to justice by improving Criminal Justice System performance in bringing serious violent, serious sexual and serious acquisitive offences to justice.

Dual Nationality

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British passport holders also hold Pakistani nationality. [272916]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available.

Although applicants for British passports who have registered or naturalised are required to send in a registration or naturalisation certificate with their application, including any foreign passports held, these are returned after identity has been confirmed and no statistical record is kept of their country of origin or previous nationality.

Foreign Workers: Health Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the implementation of the points-based immigration system on the employment of foreign nationals as nurses in the NHS. [275060]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has worked closely with the Department of Health and external stakeholders in the sector, including NHS Employers, throughout the development of the Points Based System (PBS). Where vacancies for nurses exist which cannot be filled by workers from within the European economic area (EEA), NHS trusts that are licensed sponsors under Tier 2 of the PBS are able to bring nurses to the UK to fill these posts. Some specialist nursing posts have been included on the Government's shortage occupation list.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the airline industry on responsibility for the cost of returning to their country of origin persons trafficked by air into the UK. [275296]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* There are no specific arrangements for assigning responsibility of the costs of returning trafficking victims to their country of origin. I am not aware that this has been raised as an issue by the airline industry. It is our policy to encourage voluntary returns wherever possible, which in most cases would not result in a cost being incurred by a carrier.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity cards had been issued to non-EEA foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control on the latest date for which figures are available. [269226]

Jacqui Smith: As of the end of April 2009, the UK Border Agency had issued over 34,120 identity cards for foreign nationals.

Identity Cards: Greater Manchester

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the rate at which voluntary take up of identity cards will occur under the Manchester pilot. [274195]

Mr. Woolas: No estimates have been made of the rate of voluntary take up of identity cards for the Manchester roll-out.

The take up in Manchester will provide an indication of the likely rate of take up to inform further roll out strategy for the National Identity Service.

Immigration Controls

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals were made by applicants under the Highly-Skilled Migrants programme where applications were refused because their savings fell below the required level; and how many such appeals were successful in each year that the scheme has operated. [272237]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available for either in country appeals or out of country administrative reviews. This is because the UK Border Agency's Case Information Database is unable to extract data on the specific reasons why an application is initially refused. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by the examination of a large number of individual case files.

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 5,589 suspected immigration offenders arrested in 2007-08 have subsequently been *(a)* charged, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* deported. [273738]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency records details of the number of individuals arrested as suspected immigration offenders, details of prosecutions, and the details of those removed on three separate systems. In order to achieve the required level of data quality, the cross-referencing of data between the three systems could only completed by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, as well as statistics on persons proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts in England and Wales annually. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

It should be noted, however, that the UK Border Agency would normally seek to remove an individual under such circumstances, rather than to prosecute them, as the former presents a more cost effective alternative.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the next statistical bulletin on the operation of certain powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. [274718]

Mr. Coaker: The latest publication, "Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales 2007/08", was published on 30 April 2009.

Chapter 2 contains statistics on stops and searches and certain other powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

The bulletin can be accessed from the following link:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0709.pdf

Publication of the 2008-09 bulletin is expected be within the next 12 months but a date has not yet been announced.

Police Custody: Death

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what persons in respect of which any inquests and other legal proceedings have been concluded have died in police custody since 1990; what the *(a)* date, *(b)* place and *(c)* cause of each death was; and what the coroner's verdict was in each case where there was an inquest. [274434]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* The Home Office was responsible for publishing statistics relating to death following police contact which included date, place, cause of death and the verdict from any coroner's inquest until 31 March 2004. Since 1 April 2004 the Independent Police Complaints Commission has been responsible for the collation and publication of such data.

The statistics between 1990-2000 are contained within Police Complaints and Discipline Bulletins and separately from 1997 on the Home Office and IPCC websites.

Links are as follows:

From 1990:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbarchive.html

From 1997:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/deaths-in-police-custody

And from 1 April 2004:

http://wwwiipcc.gov.uk/index/resources/research/reports_policustody.htm

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding she plans to provide to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in each of the next three years; what discussions she has had with the IPCC on its future funding since January 2009; and if she will make a statement. [273867]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is providing funding of £36.7 million to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) for 2009-10. This includes funding for its remit in respect of serious complaints made against staff of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). In addition, the IPCC also receives funding from the UK Border Agency, and HM Revenue and Customs to fund its complaints investigation work in respect of those organisations.

Funding levels for future years have not yet been determined. The Home Office works closely with the IPCC to review its financial position and its performance on a regular basis to ensure that it can continue to deliver its statutory role and that it is making best use of its resources.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff of each (i) age group and (ii) sex were employed by Essex police in (A) 2007, (B) 2008 and (C) 2009 to date; [275588]

(2) how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff were employed by Essex Police Authority in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) to date in 2009, broken down by (A) age and (B) sex. [275603]

Mr. Coaker: The information collected centrally shows the number of police officers and civilian staff employed by Essex police on 31 March 2007 and 31 March 2008, broken down by four age groups (25 and under; 26 to 40; 41 to 55; and over 55) and sex. It is shown in the following table. Corresponding figures for 31 March 2009 will be available when the National Statistics bulletin Police Service Personnel, England and Wales, 31 March 2009, is published on 23 July 2009.

Separate figures for officers and staff employed by Essex police authority are not collected centrally.

Number of police officers and staff employed by Essex police: 2007-08

	Age group (HC)					Gender (FTE)		
	25 and under	25-40	41-55	Over 55	Total (HC)[1]	Male	Female	Total (FTE)[1]
31 March 2007								
Police officers	517	1592	1267	21	3397	2480	860	3340
Police staff[2]	374	749	939	550	2612	948	1434	2382
31 March 2008								
Police officers	527	1686	1209	23	3445	2479	906	3385
Police staff[2]	391	802	954	594	2741	989	1512	2501

[1] Age group figures presented in terms of head-count (HC) as the more commonly used full time equivalent (FTE) measures not collected.
[2] Police staff figures include police community support officers, designated officers and traffic wardens.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* operational police officers per head of population there are in Essex Police; what recent discussions she has had with the chief constable of Essex police on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [275589]

Mr. Coaker: Latest available figures for police officers and operational police officers per head of population as at 31 March 2008 are shown in the following table. Deployment is not an issue that we would discuss. It is for the chief constable and the Essex Police Authority to reach decisions on the allocation of resources. We understand from the chief constable that over the next three to five years Operation Apex will increase the number of police officers by around 600.

Number of officers and operational officers employed by Essex police on 31 March 2008

	Number (full-time equivalent)	Rate per 100,000 population
Total police officers	3,385	203

Number of officers and operational officers employed by Essex police on 31 March 2008

	Number (full-time equivalent)	Rate per 100,000 population
Of which:		
Operational police officers[1]	3,265	196

[1] Any officer whose primary role (i.e. over 50 per cent. of their time) is directly to deliver the overarching aims of the police service.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she next plans to visit Essex Police Authority area; and if she will make a statement. [275590]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary has no current plans to visit Essex, having visited the force in November last year. I visited Colchester in April this year.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when representatives of her Department last visited Essex Police Authority area; what issues were discussed; and if she will make a statement. [275592]

Mr. Coaker: I visited Essex on 9 April this year, while there I saw the SOS bus and visited Colchester police station.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions representatives of her Department have had with representatives of Essex Police Authority since December 2008 on the release of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if she will make a statement. [275593]

Mr. Coaker: There have been no conversations between Home Office Ministers or officials and Essex police authority on the release of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 since December 2008.

Police: Information and Communications Technology

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many and what proportion of police authority computers malware was detected in 2008. [275391]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally by the Home Office.

Police: Powers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 7-8WS, on policing: publication of reports by Sir David Normington and Jan Berry, what steps her Department is taking to review charging procedures to help police use their discretion more. [272985]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office is committed to returning discretion to police forces and frontline officers by streamlining performance management, reducing bureaucracy, and improving supervision at all levels of the service.

Sir David Normington's review set out how the Home Office will reduce burdens on police forces by removing or reducing the amount of information we collect from them, thus allowing police forces to spend less time filling out paperwork for the centre.

Jan Berry, the Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate, was appointed to help us cut the bureaucracy coming out of Whitehall and to challenge both Government and the service itself to make further reductions in unnecessary bureaucracy. Along with a reference group comprising frontline police officers and support staff she has been analysing common procedures undertaken by frontline officers and staff with a view to reducing the bureaucracy involved.

One of the areas that she has been looking at is the custody process, including charging practices. As I announced at the Police Federation Conference on 13 May, Jan Berry is now working with the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Attorney General on the scope for streamlining the charging process so that the police get the best possible service and a quicker turnaround on decisions from the Crown Prosecution Service, and that police officers receive the appropriate advice to enable them to use their discretion confidently in making charging decisions.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* status and *(b)* delivery timetable is of the National Policing Improvement Agency's project to (i) create a common operating environment for police officers and (ii) create innovative information services for citizens and partners of police forces. [273020]

Jacqui Smith: Following a commission from the National Policing Board, the National Policing Improvement Agency has established the Information Systems Improvement Strategy (ISIS). This programme of work will create both a common operating environment for officers and innovative information services. The ISIS programme is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

The programme's focus for 2009-10 includes:

Delivery of a national crime mapping solution by September 2009

New national procurement agreements that will deliver cost savings

Working with police forces to develop a new digital evidence strategy that will contribute to improvements across the criminal justice system.

The ISIS plan for 2009-10 will shortly be published and distributed to police forces and police authorities and the programme will report on progress to myself and the National Policing Board in June.

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 37-8W, on Tasers, how many Tasers each police force has; and how much expenditure her Department has incurred in supplying Tasers to each police force in the last 12 months. [273525]

Mr. Coaker: Taser has been available for use by authorised firearms officers in all forces since 2004. At 31 March 2008, there were 6,780 authorised firearms officers in England and Wales.

In extending the use of Taser to specially trained units the Home Office has so far provided £8 million to the National Policing Improvement Agency to support the purchase of 7,000 Tasers which have been distributed to force. The breakdown by force is in the following table.

Police force	*Tasers requested and provided*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	130
Bedfordshire Constabulary	90
British Transport Police	400
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	150
Cheshire Constabulary	82
City of London Police	30
Cleveland Constabulary	140

Police force	Tasers requested and provided
Cumbria Constabulary	50
Derbyshire Constabulary	250
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	325
Dorset Constabulary	100
Durham Constabulary	120
Dyfed Powys Police	80
Essex Police	60
Gloucestershire Constabulary	50
Greater Manchester Police	550
Gwent Constabulary	100
Hampshire Constabulary	100
Hertfordshire Constabulary	110
Humberside Police	100
Kent Constabulary	112
Lancashire Constabulary	200
Leicestershire Constabulary	110
Lincolnshire Police	364
Merseyside Police	365
Metropolitan Police	150
Norfolk Constabulary	100
Northamptonshire Police	36
Northumbria Police	88
North Wales Police	130
North Yorkshire Police	100
Nottinghamshire Constabulary	200
South Wales Constabulary	120
South Yorkshire Police	70
Staffordshire Police	98
Suffolk Constabulary	100
Surrey Police	250
Sussex Police	50
Thames Valley Police	100
Warwickshire Constabulary	78
West Mercia Constabulary	70
West Midlands Police	600
West Yorkshire Police	327
Wiltshire Constabulary	95
SOCA	70
Total	7,000

UK Border Agency: Disciplinary Proceedings

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border Agency were *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* removed from duty in 2008. [271368]

Mr. Woolas: The following figures relate to the calendar year 2008.

	Number
(a) Staff investigated	394
(b) Staff disciplined	176
(c) Staff removed from duty:	
(i) Suspended	64
(ii) Dismissed	91

Notes.
1. This does not include attendance management and performance management related figures.
2. The figures for 'removed from duty' include 64 staff who were suspended and 91 who were dismissed. The dismissed figure is not included in the 'staff disciplined' category.
3. Out of the 64 staff suspended, some staff were subsequently dismissed and are included in the 'dismissed' figures. The remaining staff either received a disciplinary outcome less than dismissal e.g. first formal warning, final formal warning and penalty short of dismissal or are still on suspension pending the outcome of the investigation.

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the UK Human Trafficking Centre was in each of the last three financial years. [272046]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The budget for the UK Human Trafficking Centre for the last three years is as follows:

	£
2007-08	834,000
2008-09	1.7 million
2009-10	1.6 million

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273554]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs gave on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 522W, to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott).

Departmental Responsibilities

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) which Minister has responsibility for the Energy and Climate Change Unit in his Department; [276290]

(2) when he expects the Energy and Climate Change Unit's administration budget for 2009-10 to be finalised. [276291]

Ian Pearson: I am the Minister responsible for the Unit but it provides support to all Ministers within the Department. The administration budget for 2009-10 for the Unit is expected to be finalised by the end of June.

LDV: Birmingham

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the Secretary of State has had with LDV on restarting production at its plant in Birmingham. [275148]

Ian Pearson: None. I deal with matters relating to LDV.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to answer Question 264097,

tabled on 16 March 2009 on complaints on handling of requests for mobile telephone service cancellations. [271613]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs gave on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 560W.

Regional Development Agencies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the regional development agencies in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [271275]

Ian Pearson: The RDAs expenditure in 2007-08 was £2,265 million and in 2008-09 expenditure is forecasted (subject to audit) at £2,179 million. This expenditure takes account of the cost of delivery for various programmes (e.g. Business Links) and of administration. These figures do not include EU programme monies associated with ERDF and RDPE.

Small Businesses: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses have applied for a loan through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme since its creation; what criteria are used by his Department on deciding suitability for a loan under the scheme; under what circumstances such a loan would be refused; how many applications have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* refused; what the average loan was; whether interest is charged on each loan; how much has been allocated by his Department to the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [259063]

Ian Pearson: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) came in to operation on 14 January. A 75 per cent. Government guarantee for loans will support bank lending of three months to 10 year maturity. Eligible businesses should have a turnover of up to £25million. The scheme will enable them to secure loans of between £1,000 and £1 million through the Government guarantee. The scheme can also be used to convert an existing overdraft into a loan, enabling small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to use these overdraft facilities to meet working capital demands. A Premium of 2 per cent. per annum (1.5 per cent. during 2009) on the outstanding balance of the loan is also payable to BERR, in addition to the loan repayments and any interest set and charged by the lender.

Decisions on individual lending rests with the lender, whose decision will follow a commercial assessment of the viability of the proposition and the ability to service the loan and other charges, the suitability of EFG as opposed to lender's other commercial lending products, and the EFG eligibility criteria (including sector restrictions as detailed on the BERR website).

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Service Reform

8. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on proposals for reform of the civil service to be contained in legislation on constitutional reform. [276402]

Mr. Byrne: The Government continues to develop its proposals on constitutional renewal, including those for the civil service.

Charities

9. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he plans to take to assist charities in the current economic situation. [276404]

Kevin Brennan: In addition to "Real Help for Communities" we will shortly be announcing details of the £16.7 million fund announced in the Budget to help third sector organisations facing hardship as a result of the global economic crisis.

I am continuing to listen to the sector, for example, by co-chairing a follow-up recession summit with that National Council for Voluntary Organisations on 10 June, to understand the ongoing effects of the recession.

Voter Registration

10. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what data the Office for National Statistics gathers on the level of voter registration. [276405]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what data the Office for National Statistics gathers on the level of voter registration. (276405)

The Office for National Statistics collects annual counts of the number of people who are registered to vote - in Parliamentary, European and Local Government Elections - from Electoral Registration Officers in each local authority in England and Wales.

In Scotland the counts of registered voters are collated by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). In Northern Ireland the counts are collected by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI).

The Office for National Statistics collates all these data to produce annual Electoral Statistics for the UK by Parliamentary Constituency and Local Authority.

ONS also produces annual estimates of the mid-year resident population of the UK. These figures can be compared to annual estimates of the mid-year resident population to provide an approximation to voter registration rates.

This is not a precise figure for voter registration rates because not everybody who is usually resident is entitled to vote and on the other hand some people may be registered in more than one area (e.g. some people with more than one address).

Charities: Government Assistance

Dan Norris: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what financial and other support his Department is giving to charities during the economic downturn. [276395]

Kevin Brennan: Up to £42.5 million was announced in "Real Help for Communities" in February; a £16.7 million Hardship fund was announced in the Budget, as well as a £1.2 billion jobs fund which the third sector will be able to access.

Civil Servants: Codes of Practice

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what changes have been made to the Civil Service Management Code provisions on *(a)* blogging and use of social media by civil servants, *(b)* guidance on access to papers of a previous administration and *(c)* civil servants publishing memoirs in the last six months. [271964]

Mr. Watson: The "Civil Service Management Code" has been revised to reflect updated rules for civil servants on the publication of memoirs, and to provide a link to guidance for civil servants' on their participation in social media and on-line activity. The guidance on access to papers of a previous administration has not been revised, but the "Code" text covering this issue has been shortened and now links to further guidance in the "Directory of Civil Service Guidance".

A copy of the "Civil Service Management Code" can be found in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/CSMC_April08_tcm6-3222_new_tcm6-6433.doc

Civil Servants: Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of *(a)* central government and *(b)* Civil Service vacancies were advertised via the public and private parts of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway in the last year for which figures are available. [271965]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1057-1058W. In the past 12 months, 47 per cent. of all Civil Service vacancies were advertised internally online and 53 per cent. were advertised externally online to the general public.

Civil Service: Recruitment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what criteria the *(a)* Cabinet Office, *(b)* Government Communications Network and *(c)* the Central Office of Information uses to determine whether a job is advertised (i) publicly on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway external site, (ii) the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway internal site and (iii) internally only. [269949]

Mr. Watson: Civil service recruitment follows the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance the Civil Service Commissioners have issued on the circumstances in which Civil Service vacancies are advertised to the general public. [269950]

Mr. Watson: It is for departments to determine the route for filling their vacancies.

Selection for appointment to the Civil Service is required to be on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. The Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles provide detail on how the Commissioners interpret this requirement, which must be followed by departments.

A copy of the Civil Service Commissioners Report can be found in the House of Commons Library or at:

www.civilservicecommissioners.org.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* officials of each grade and *(b)* special advisers in 10 Downing Street have flown with British Airways on official business in each month since June 2007; what the (i) destination and (ii) cost of the ticket was in each case; what policy governs the use of British Airways by officials in 10 Downing Street; and if he will make a statement. [270554]

Kevin Brennan: For the purposes of this answer, the Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office does not hold a breakdown of the information required since June 2007.

Cabinet Office policy requires officials to use the most cost effective class of air travel appropriate to the business need which takes account of the level of work that needs to be done during the flight and the importance of minimising fatigue. Standard class should normally be used but where the circumstances are justified, including longer flights, officials may travel in a higher class. Seats may be up-graded to a higher class where this does not involve additional cost. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the civil service management code and the ministerial code.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 submitted to the Cabinet Office more than six months ago are being assessed for their public interest implications. [271961]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Justice publishes statistics, on a quarterly basis, which give details of the number of requests that have had their deadline extended to consider the balance of public interest. Copies of the statistics are available in the Library of the House and are on the Ministry of Justice's website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

Departmental Logos

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire of 31 October

2006, *Official Report*, column 323W, on departmental branding, what the Cabinet Office's policy is on the *(a)* re-use and *(b)* disposal of departmental-branded goods which become out of date following machinery of Government changes; and in what manner the sign of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office was disposed of. [270294]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office logo is used as a corporate image and is included on the majority of material produced by the Department. Wherever possible the Department would make use of any branded material that was outdated, or recycle any items that could not be reused.

The Department for Communities and Local Government have confirmed that the sign of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office was given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) when he left office. The used value of the sign was minimal.

Departmental Mobile Telephones

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 392-93W, on departmental mobile telephones, (1) whether any of the 14 damaged mobile telephones had been allocated to individuals who work in 10 Downing Street; [269953]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of replacing the 14 damaged mobile telephones; [270170]

(3) what the *(a)* make and *(b)* model of each of the 14 damaged mobile telephones was. [270171]

Mr. Watson: None of the 14 phones that were damaged had been issued to individuals who work in Downing street.

Under the terms of the contract the Department has with Vodafone, damaged handsets are replaced free of charge on a 'like for like' replacement policy.

The make and models of the 14 damaged mobile phones mentioned in my answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 392-93W, to the right hon. Member are given in the table:

Make	*Model*	*Number*
Sony Ericsson	P990i	1
Sony Ericsson	K530i	1
Motorola	Razr	1
Nokia	6822	1
Nokia	6300	1
Nokia	6230	2
Nokia	3109	2
Blackberry	8800	3
Blackberry	7130e	1
Blackberry	8100	1

Economic Situation: Disadvantaged People

Anne Moffat: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment his Department has made of the effects on socially-excluded people of the recession. [276397]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are acutely aware of the importance of helping those who are socially excluded, which is why it is one of our top 30 priorities under PSA 16. In addition to "Real Help Now" measures, the Social Exclusion Task Force has started a project to identify further practical help to protect those on the cusp of a downward spiral into social exclusion and ensure that they come through the recession stronger.

Employment: Logistics

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people in each region work in the logistics sector; [276153]

(2) how many people worked in the logistics sector in each region in each quarter of 2008. [276154]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions:

How many people in each region work in the logistics sector? (276153)

How many people worked in the logistics sector in each region in each quarter of 2008? (276154)

The attached table shows the number of employee jobs for transport, storage and communication activities (Section I of the Standard Industrial Classification 2003) in each UK Government Office Region (GOR) from 2007Q1 to 2008Q4, the most recent estimate available. The quarterly series are not seasonally adjusted and so estimates for 2007 have been included in order to produce series of annual change.

These estimates are produced from employer surveys and are subject to sampling variability. They exclude self-employed jobs and government supported trainees, which are not available by region by industry. Section level is the lowest industry level available by region for quarterly employee jobs. Section I has been deemed to best represent the 'logistics sector' and this includes land transport, water transport, storage, warehousing, post and telecommunications. A more detailed breakdown of employee jobs by industry by region is available from ONS's Annual Business Inquiry, although the most recent estimates are for 2007.

Section I: Transport, Storage and Communication (Division 60 to 64) of the Standard Industrial Classification 2003

Employee jobs (thousand)

	Government office regions								
Levels	*South-east*	*East*	*London*	*South-west*	*West midlands*	*East midlands*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*North-west*	*North-east*
2007									
March	217.8	146.1	304.4	106.4	130.8	107.7	127.1	173.9	52.7

Section I: Transport, Storage and Communication / Division 60 to 64 / of the Standard Industrial Classification 2003

Employee jobs / thousand

	Government office regions								
Levels	*South east*	*East*	*London*	*South west*	*West midlands*	*East midlands*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*North west*	*North east*
June	210.9	145.3	303.9	108.4	130.0	100.9	128.4	173.2	93.4
September	221.2	144.5	304.2	112.9	130.3	106.7	127.2	170.8	93.6
December	223.9	145.5	306.3	115.5	133.9	111.9	129.2	175.1	93.2
2008									
March	220.3	142.7	306.3	114.1	131.0	109.4	126.0	172.1	92.3
June	221.3	143.2	308.8	113.0	132.2	110.1	129.1	175.2	93.3
September	220.1	142.9	306.5	113.5	130.8	109.1	129.0	173.1	93.0
December	222.1	143.8	306.9	114.2	132.1	111.1	129.1	175.1	93.5
Change on year									
2008									
March	2.9	-0.6	1.9	7.7	0.2	1.7	-0.3	-1.8	-0.4
June	2.4	-2.1	-0.1	4.6	1.2	2.1	0.7	0.0	-0.1
September	-1.1	-1.6	2.5	0.6	0.5	2.4	1.8	2.3	0.4
December	-1.8	-1.7	-3.4	-1.3	-1.8	-0.9	-0.1	0.0	0.3
Change on year %									
March	1.3	-2.3	0.6	7.2	0.2	1.6	-0.2	-1.0	-0.8
June	1.1	-1.4	0.0	4.2	0.9	1.9	0.5	0.0	-0.2
September	-0.5	-1.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	2.2	1.4	1.3	0.0
December	-0.8	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-1.3	-0.7	-0.1	0.0	0.6

Employee jobs / thousand

	Government office regions			
Levels	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*UK*
2007				
March	49.7	124.4	29.6	1,570.5
June	50.0	127.0	30.3	1,581.0
September	50.7	130.0	31.2	1,592.6
December	51.2	132.5	31.5	1,613.9
2008				
March	50.6	130.4	31.4	1,587.5
June	51.4	131.5	30.9	1,596.0
September	50.1	128.3	30.9	1,587.3
December	50.1	129.0	31.3	1,598.1
Change on year				
2008				
March	0.9	6.0	2.0	17.0
June	0.5	4.5	0.6	14.4
September	-0.6	-1.7	-0.3	4.7
December	-1.1	-3.5	-0.2	-15.7
Change on year %				
March	1.9	4.8	6.8	1.1
June	1.2	3.5	2.0	0.9
September	-1.2	-1.3	-1.0	0.3
December	-2.1	-2.6	-0.6	-1.0

Source:
Business Statistics Division, ONS
Customer Helpline 01633 456776

Gifts and Endowments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what financial threshold applies to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* senior civil servants and *(c)* special advisers for the registering of hospitality or gifts with their Department. [271954]

Mr. Watson: The requirements on Ministers in relation to the registering of hospitality and gifts is set out in the ministerial code. For civil servants, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 712W.

Copies of the ministerial code can be found in the Library of the House or on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/propriety_and_ethics/assets/ministerial_code_current.pdf

Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many public sector regulatory bodies have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished since May 1997. [272017]

Mr. Watson: The annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies" provides information on all non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), including those with regulatory functions. In 1997 there were 857 NDPBs sponsored by UK Government. By 2008 the number had fallen to 790. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1997 are available in the Libraries of the House.

Public Sector: Public Consultation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the use of citizens' juries. [271956]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2206W.

In relation to the last citizen's jury held by the Cabinet Office, on the Draft Legislative programme in October 2007, the Government's assessment was that it was helpful both in informing the development of that document and in shaping the consultation process for future draft programmes.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 943-4W, on trade unions, whether the office working space provided by the Cabinet Office to trade union representatives may be used for political activities. [270167]

Mr. Watson: Union Representatives are all civil servants and as such are bound by the Civil Service Code.

The rules relating to civil servants' involvement in political activities, including trade union representatives, are set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answers to the hon. Member for Chichester of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1185W, on trades unions, and of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 943-44W, on trades unions, what the *(a)* location and *(b)* size of the office facilities provided for the exclusive use of each of the recognised trade unions in (i) his Department, (ii) Government Communications and (iii) the Central Office of Information is; and what the notional monetary value of such provision was in 2008-09. [271911]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 943-44W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of whether the practice of attributing carbon neutrality to all biomass is compliant with Article 3.3 of the Kyoto Protocol. [249617]

Joan Ruddock: The practice of attributing carbon neutrality to biomass at the point of use is consistent with article 3.3 of the Kyoto Protocol because the carbon stock changes reported under this article take account of biomass harvesting for subsequent use.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the emissions to air of *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* nitrogen oxides which would arise if the UK were to achieve its targets for the usage of biomass as fuel as set in the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation 2008. [249619]

Joan Ruddock: If the UK were to achieve the estimated potential for the use of biomass for heat and power, as set out in the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation 2008, and assuming that biomass is carbon neutral, this could save around 20 Mt carbon dioxide compared to the fossil fuel alternative. This methodology does not account for losses of carbon dioxide during production, processing and transport, whose impact will vary on a case by case basis. Some of these savings will occur within the Emissions Trading Scheme. On nitrogen oxides, Government has modelled the potential impact of an increase in use of biomass in the domestic sector against a range of scenarios. We estimate this could result in an additional 0.8-9.1 ktonnes NOx over a baseline for 2020 of 87.1 ktonnes, depending on the amount of heat produced and the level of performance of the biomass unit.

British Nuclear Fuels

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the salary of the chief executive of British Nuclear Fuels plc was in each of the last 10 years. [267062]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The salary paid to the chief executive in each of the last 10 full years is as follows:

Year ending 31 March	*Salary (£)*
2008	518,450
2007	510,800
2006	486,450
2005	470,000
2004	450,000
2003	375,950
2002	365,000
2001	350,000
2000	247,056
1999	239,861

Full details of the remuneration paid to the chief executive are published in BNFL's annual report and accounts.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 557 on departmental records, what estimate he made of the cost of answering the Question; and if he will make a statement. [272248]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The cost of answering the hon. Member's question, in terms of expenditure incurred and the time and effort spent by officials to retrieve the relevant files, is estimated to exceed the current disproportionate cost threshold of £750.

Fuel Poverty

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households were estimated to be in fuel poverty in each *(a)* region and *(b)* London local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [276268]

Joan Ruddock: Regional fuel poverty figures are not available prior to 2001. The following table shows a regional breakdown of fuel poverty for 2006, the most recent year for which data are available.

Region	*Number of fuel poor households 2006 (thousand)*
North East	179
Yorks and Humber	273
North West	415
East Midlands	236
West Midlands	304
South West	256
East England	224
South East	291
London	254
Total	2,432

Local authority data on fuel poverty are not available for 1997. The most recent year for which local authority levels of fuel poverty are available is 2003 and the following table shows these for local authorities in London.

Local authority	*Number of fuel poor households 2003 (thousand)*
Barking and Dagenham	3,900
Barnet	6,700
Bexley	5,000
Brent	5,300
Bromley	6,700
Camden	4,800
City of London	200
Croydon	7,700
Ealing	6,100
Enfield	6,000
Greenwich	5,300
Hackney	4,600
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,800
Haringey	5,200
Harrow	4,000
Havering	5,000
Hillingdon	4,800
Hounslow	4,300
Islington	4,200
Kensington and Chelsea	4,100
Kingston upon Thames	3,200
Lambeth	6,100
Lewisham	5,900
Merton	4,200
Newham	5,800
Redbridge	5,200
Richmond upon Thames	4,100
Southwark	5,400
Sutton	3,900
Tower Hamlets	3,800
Waltham Forest	5,300
Wandsworth	5,900
Westminster	5,600
London total	162,200

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require private building companies to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions; and if he will make a statement. [274425]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* In future, the Carbon Reduction Commitment will incentivise all private and public sector organisations that consume at least 6,000 MWh of half hourly metered electricity per year, including private building companies, to reduce their CO_2 emissions. The final details of the scheme are currently subject to public consultation which closes on 4 June and it will come into force in 2010.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (Communities) is responsible for setting minimum standards for the energy and carbon performance of building works through the building regulations in England and (currently) Wales. Communities has announced that all new homes in England will be NET zero carbon from 2016, with progressive tightening of part L of the Building Regulations towards that outcome in 2010 and 2013. Communities expect to consult shortly on part L changes for 2010.

Government have also announced their ambition for new non-domestic buildings to be zero carbon from 2019. Communities has recently consulted on the definition of zero carbon homes and non-domestic buildings. The need for new legislation to give effect to these policies will be considered at a later stage. The devolved Administrations are working on their own proposals for low and zero carbon development.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on the safety control systems for the design of the generic European Pressurised Water Reactor; and what the timetable is for the assessment of generic design candidate reactors for new nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom. [274631]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the HSE is in the process of assessing EDF/AREVA's UK European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR) as part of their Generic Design Assessment (GDA). During this process the NII has informed officials from DECC's Office of Nuclear Development (OND) that it has raised issues with EDF/AREVA on the Control and Instrumentation (C&I) systems of the EPR design.

The NII has raised this matter with EDF/AREVA, both verbally and as a Regulatory Issue (the highest level of technical issue that can be given under GDA), sent on 16 April 2009.

Having a GDA process in the UK allows the regulators to raise these types of issues at an early stage of the assessment process, which is what the NII has been able to do. This then allows the company involved to identify solutions that can be implemented at an early stage of the conceptual design, prior to construction.

We expect the GDA process to be completed by June 2011.

Warm Front Scheme: East Midlands

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the approved suppliers to the Warm Front scheme in the East Midlands are. [274364]

Joan Ruddock: The following list details installers registered with the Warm Front scheme and able to deliver measures in the East Midlands.

Installer name

Absolute Insulation Ltd.
Anglian Insulation
Aran Services Ltd.
Better Plumbing Services Ltd.
BGC Gas Services Ltd.
Blue Flag Ltd.
Castle Point Insulation Ltd.
Cosyhome Insulation Ltd.
Cosytop Thermal Insulations Ltd.
eaga Heating Services Ltd.
eaga Home Services Ltd.
eaga Renewables Ltd.
East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
Fenhams Contracts
Heating Renewables Ltd.
Help-Link UK Ltd.
Interglow Contracts Ltd.
J and J Crump and Son Ltd.
Johnson and Starley Total Home Comfort Systems
Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.
KHI Ltd.
Lion Insulation
Micron H&V Ltd.
Miller Pattison Ltd.
Orion Insulation and Construction Services Ltd.
Perry Electrical Ltd.
Pro Gas Services (Hull) Ltd.
R G Francis Ltd.
Solarwall Ltd.
Southern Electrical Contracting Ltd.
Staywarm Installations Ltd.
Sun Realm Heating Company Ltd.
West Anglia Insulation Services Ltd.
Westville Insulations

Warm Front Scheme: Lighting

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many energy efficient light bulbs have been provided under the Warm Front scheme in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [255874]

Joan Ruddock: The number of households receiving two light bulbs under Warm Front since 2000 is detailed as follows:

	Number of households	*Total cost (£)*
2000-01	215,238	1,016,999.55
2001-02	475,780	2,248,060.50
2002-03	533,882	2,522,592.45
2003-04	361,672	1,709,155.35
2004-05	411,928	1,946,359.80
2005-06	309,052	1,311,772.10
2006-07	476,532	1,927,580.02
2007-08	510,890	2,068,053.69
2008-09 (to date)	328,566	1,329,049.47

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 21 May 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Freedom of Information

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the House of Commons *(a)* has paid and *(b)* remains liable to pay in respect of the costs of legal actions concerning freedom of information since the Freedom of Information Act 2000 came into effect. [276329]

Nick Harvey: Legal actions to the end of April 2009 have incurred external costs of £142,838. There are no outstanding liabilities. All internal costs have been absorbed within the cost of running the House Administration and cannot be separately identified.

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the number of leaks to outside bodies of information on hon. Members' expenses claims for 2007-08; what assessment the Commission has made of the effects of those leaks, and the subsequent publication of information; and if he will make a statement. [276045]

Nick Harvey: It is clear that there has been unauthorised disclosure of a large amount of data relating to Members' claims, including claims relating to 2007-08. The Commission is monitoring the effects of those disclosures.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission for what reasons the information on hon. Members' expenses which has been leaked was not processed solely on paper, prior to scheduled publication by the House authorities in redacted electronic form. [276389]

Nick Harvey: The information to be published was taken from a dataset approaching one million separate pieces of paper. The editing of such information in paper format would have required copies to be made and the application of ink or tape to obscure the information and then recopied to ensure that the data remained unreadable. This solution was considered to be impracticable.

Members: Data Protection

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make it his policy that unredacted private data relating to hon. Members will in future be processed solely on paper until all redactions have been made, prior to publication in electronic form online. [276390]

Nick Harvey: Given the need correctly to process, record and account for claims and expenditure it is inevitable that electronic records are created and maintained. However, from the start of this financial year the way in which such data are collected and processed has been restructured. These processes will be kept under review.

Security

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether information is retained by the House authorities on where and when an hon. Member uses their House of Commons pass; and if he will make a statement. [276410]

Nick Harvey: It is not the policy of the Commission to comment on security matters.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Police: Assaults

7. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Solicitor-General what her most recent assessment is of the performance of the Crown Prosecution Service in prosecuting cases of assault against police officers in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire. [276611]

The Solicitor-General: In 2008-09 the Crown Prosecution Service prosecuted 21,260 cases of assault specifically against police officers in the execution of their duty, under section 89(1) of the Police Act 1996 in England and Wales, of which 185 cases were in Northamptonshire. The outcomes of these prosecutions could be ascertained only by examining individual case records, which would incur disproportionate cost. More serious assaults on police officers may result in other offences being charged, but the nature of the victim is not sufficiently identified by the CPS records.

Government Departments: Legal Profession

Anne Moffat: To ask the Solicitor-General what the policy of the Law Officers' Departments is on encouraging Government lawyers to undertake pro bono work. [276608]

The Solicitor-General: All Government Departments encourage their staff to take an active role in volunteering in the community. The Law Officers' departments support this policy and the provision by lawyers of legal advice and assistance pro bono. As a Law Officer's department, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, through the Government Legal Service Pro Bono network, encourages Government lawyers who wish to provide advice and representation pro bono. In addition to raising awareness and supporting lawyers working at diverse law clinics, the GLS pro bono network operates an advice clinic at the Treasury Solicitor's Department on Tuesday nights, which focuses on employment law issues. A new initiative from the Crown Prosecution Service is a pro bono and volunteering network, which will be launched formally on 10 June 2009.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions she has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on the convening of a joint panel with the Metropolitan Police to assess allegations relating to claims for allowances payments made by hon. Members. [276606]

The Solicitor-General: None. Decisions about whether a criminal investigation is called for or not in an individual case fall to the police, with advice from the Crown Prosecution Service. The panel will establish whether there are cases that merit investigation and determine priorities. This will speed up the process. The panel will ensure that decisions in individual cases are taken on a fair and consistent basis with the benefit of advice from the CPS.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Allowances

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Members: allowances; for what reason he did not reply to the part of the Question relating to the sequence of events. [276762]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 183W. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) at Prime Minister's Questions on 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 910-911.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Compensation Agency: Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Compensation Agency spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [276365]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the Compensation Agency's expenditure on hospitality in the last five years:

	Hospitality expenditure (£)
2008-09	228.93
2007-08	618.66
2006-07	34.31
2005-06	293.91
2004-05	703.52

The Compensation Agency does not have any entertainment expenditure.

SCOTLAND

Borders: Personal Records

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions officials of his Department have had with officials of the Home Office on the proposal to give the police powers to collect advance passenger data on domestic air and sea journeys. [275501]

Ann McKechin: Scotland Office and Home Office officials have had a number of recent exchanges on this proposal. Police powers to require a carrier, on request, to capture passenger data on domestic routes were provided through the Police and Justice Act 2006. These provisions have not been commenced. A formal public consultation will take place prior to the secondary legislation necessary to implement the powers. It is intended that this will focus on crossings between Great Britain and Northern Ireland only.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many members of staff in his Department were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274315]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since this date no members of staff have been dismissed for under-performance.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Leader of the House when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 19 February 2009, on lobbying. [276696]

Chris Bryant: We have no record of receiving such correspondence from the hon. Member, but would be happy to supply an early response on receiving a copy of the original letter.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the airline industry on responsibility for meeting the cost of returning persons trafficked by air into the UK to their country of origin. [275414]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration on 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1463W, to the hon. Member for Totnes (Mr. Steen).

Departmental Conditions of Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the risk register for his Department's flexible benefits project. [276673]

Mr. Hoon: The risk registers held by the Department for Transport on this matter are either commercial, confidential or sensitive documents and it would not be appropriate to place them in the House Library.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's response is to the recommendations to standardise processes in areas such as travel and subsistence claims and annual performance appraisals as set out at page 8, paragraph 15f of the National Audit Office report on Shared Services in Department for Transport. [276674]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport agrees that standardisation of processes is an important contributor to the operation of Shared Services and that this will be achieved appropriately where it meets business need.

The NAO has highlighted travel and subsistence, and annual performance appraisals as areas where standardised processes should be considered. The Department will be considering these areas, as well as other areas where work is already under way, such as developing e recruitment, to gain the greatest benefit from shared services.

Departmental Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles over six years old are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [276685]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information on cars owned or leased over six-years-old is provided in the table.

Organisational unit	*(a) Owned*	*(b) Leased*
Central Department		
DFT HQ	0	0
Air Accidents Investigation Branch	0	0
Marine Accident Investigation Branch	0	0
Rail Accident Investigation Branch	0	0
Driving Standards Agency	24	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	0	0
Government Car and Despatch Agency	7	0
Highways Agency	237	0
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	223	0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	125	0
Vehicle Certification Agency	2	0

The Government Car and Despatch Agency provide vehicles for to a number of Government Departments.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274497]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information is as follows:

	(a) Conference services	£ *(b) Banqueting services*
2008-09	1,203,551	0
2007-08	1,007,578	0
2006-07	870,300	0
2005-06	483,717	0
2004-05	343,977	0

Notes:
1. Excludes spend in respect of DfT HQ and the Highways Agency as this is the responsibility of local business units/is not centrally collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
2. In some cases spend includes associated costs and not conference costs alone.

The Department for Transport is a federated organisation comprising a central Department and seven Executive Agencies. Conferences are organised in support of strategic objectives and the above data includes associated costs, such as stands and equipment.

The increase in costs is due to the hosting of conferences for Executive Agency stakeholders (where no such conferences previously existed) and increases in the frequency and scope of other conferences.

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 on the process of *(a)* reopening and *(b)* upgrading railway stations. [276298]

Paul Clark: No direct assessment of the effect of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts on the process of reopening and upgrading of railway stations has been made by the Department for Transport.

However, the Department recognises that the Disability Discrimination Acts have driven greater improvements to the accessibility of railway stations, both through infrastructure improvements, such as those funded through the Department's £370 million Access for All programme, as well as through improvements in the policies and practices in place for the delivery of rail services.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the additional cost of works to *(a)* reopen and *(b)* upgrade railway stations incurred as a result of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 in the latest period for which figures are available. [276299]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not made any assessment of additional costs incurred as a result of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts.

The Disability Discrimination Acts have required rail station operators to make reasonable physical alterations at stations since 2004, so that disabled people do not find it impossible or unreasonably difficult to access rail services. What is reasonable is for the Courts, not the Department for Transport, to determine.

In addition, since 2002 new infrastructure works at stations have been required to follow the standards set out in the Department's code of practice on accessible train and station design for disabled people. However, these requirements are not directly attributable to the Disability Discrimination Acts.

Lorries

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on road maintenance costs of the use of the road network by heavy goods vehicles. [276451]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has recently produced estimates of the effects of articulated heavy goods vehicles on road maintenance costs as part of the work to produce new Mode Shift Benefit (MSB) values for use in the allocation of freight mode shift grants. The estimates, and the methodology used to produce them, are described in "Mode Shift Benefit Values—Technical Report":

www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165226/443908/msbtechpaper.pdf

The underlying relationships between HGV traffic and highways maintenance were investigated in "Lorry Track and Environmental Costs":

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/nera/

which the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions published in April 2000.

M606 and M62

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness in improving road travel conditions of the high occupancy vehicle lane on the M606 and M62. [276633]

Paul Clark: The M606-M62 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane has been operating for a year and the Highways Agency is investigating the benefits to road users. Initial results suggest that those using the HOV lane are saving around eight minutes in the weekday morning peak compared with before the HOV lane was built. Those approaching the junction and not using the HOV lane are saving around five minutes in the weekday morning peak. These results are broadly as anticipated. A detailed report of performance will be published in the summer.

Railways: East Midlands

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Sunday train services operated by East Midland Trains between 14 December 2008 and 11 May 2009 ran on time; and how many such services were subject to alteration between Derby and London. [276665]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport in the form requested. Reliability data for train services are held in the form of the Public Performance Measure which records the percentage of trains arriving punctually at their destination.

More detailed train performance data for the rail network are collected and held by Network Rail. The hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which rail franchise contracts provide for a time extension; what time extension is available in each case; and what conditions govern the extension. [276328]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 19 May 2009]:* With the exception of Southern Railway which is due to terminate on 19 September 2009, all English and Welsh rail franchises have an option for a time extension based on certain criteria. The criteria may be seen in the following table:

Franchise name	*Trading name*	*Start date*	*Nominal end date*	*Extension*
First Capital Connect Ltd.	First Capital Connect	April 2006	March 2010	The full term of the franchise is for nine years until 2015, but this depends on meeting performance targets. At the end of the fourth year these were met which gave an automatic two-year extension, and a further extension for up to three years is at the discretion of DfT.
London Eastern Railway Ltd.	National Express East Anglia (NXEA)	April 2004	March 2011	There is the possibility of a three-year extension to March 2014 based on a Continuation Review. If NXEA passes, DfT will extend, but NXEA can decide not to take up extension. If NXEA fails, DfT can decide to offer to extend the franchise but NXEA has the right to refuse. DfT can extend by up to seven periods at either expiry date.
c2c	c2c	May 1996	May 2011	There is a potential seven period extension at DfT's discretion, or 26 period extension by mutual agreement.

Franchise name	*Trading name*	*Start date*	*Nominal end date*	*Extension*
Northern Rail Ltd.	Northern	December 2004	September 2011	There is the possibility of a two-year extension to September 2013 based on a Continuation Review. If Northern passes, DfT will extend, but Northern can decide not to take up extension. If Northern fails, DfT can decide to offer to extend the franchise but Northern has the right to refuse. DfT can extend by up to seven periods at either expiry date.
West Coast Train (WCT)	Virgin Trains	March 1997	March 2012	There is a potential seven period extension at DfT discretion.
London and South Eastern Railway Ltd.	Southeastern	April 2006	March 2012	There is the possibility of a two-year extension to March 2014 based on a Continuation Review. If LSER passes, DfT will extend, but LSER can decide not to take up extension. If LSER fails, DfT can decide to offer to extend the franchise but LSER has the right to refuse. Dates are dependent on introduction of SLC2.
First/Keolis TransPennine Express Ltd.	TransPennine Express	February 2004	December 2012	There is a potential seven period extension at DfT discretion or 65 period extension by mutual agreement.
First Greater Western Ltd.	First Great Western	April 2006	April 2013	There is the possibility of a three-year extension to March 2016 based on a Continuation Review. If FGW passes, DfT will extend, but FGW can decide not to take up extension. If FGW fails, DfT can decide to offer to extend the franchise but FGW has the right to refuse. DfT can extend by up to seven periods at either expiry date.
London and Birmingham Railway Ltd.	London Midland	November 2007	November 2013	There is the possibility of a two-year extension to September 2015 based on a Continuation Review. If LM passes, DfT will extend franchise. If LM fails, DfT can impose an extension. DfT can extend by up to seven periods at either expiry date.
East Midlands Trains Ltd.	East Midlands Trains	November 2007	November 2013	There is the possibility of an 18-month extension to April 2015 based on a Continuation Review. If EMT passes, DfT will extend franchise. If EMT fails, DfT can impose an extension. DfT can extend by up to seven periods at either expiry date.
Arriva Trains Cross Country Ltd.	Crosscountry	November 2007	November 2013	There is the possibility of a two-and-a-half year extension to March 2016 based on a Continuation Review. If XC passes, DfT will extend franchise. If XC fails, DfT can impose an extension. DfT can extend by up to seven periods at either expiry date.
NXEC Trains Ltd.	NXEC	December 2007	December 2013	There is the possibility of an 18-month extension to March 2015 based on a Continuation Review. If NXEC passes, DfT will extend franchise. If NXEC fails, DfT can impose an extension. DfT can extend by up to seven periods at either expiry date.
Stagecoach South West Trains Ltd.	Stagecoach South West Trains	February 2007	February 2014	There is the possibility of a three-year extension to February 2017 based on a Continuation Review. If SSWT passes, DfT will extend franchise. If SSWT fails, DfT can impose an extension. DfT can extend by up to seven periods at either expiry date.
Arriva Trains Wales/ Trenau Arriva Cymru Ltd.	Arriva Trains Wales	December 2003	October 2018	Franchise Managed by Welsh Assembly Government. ATW has five-yearly efficient operator reviews which ATW must pass to continue to operate for another five years.

Franchise name	Trading name	Start date	Nominal end date	Extension
The Chiltern Railway Company Ltd.	Chiltern	March 2002	December 2021	There is no extension period for Chiltern Railways but DfT has the right to "shrink back" the franchise term to June 2014 if infrastructure schemes submitted by Chiltern are not deemed to be "sufficient".

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what maximum period of time a rail passenger service can be temporarily withdrawn before *(a)* the service must be fully restored and *(b)* closure provisions are enacted. [276725]

Paul Clark: No maximum time period is specified under the Railways Act 2005 for which a rail passenger service can be temporarily withdrawn.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is permissible for a rail passenger service to be temporarily withdrawn for an indefinite period when there is no time-scaled plan to restore the service or enact closure provisions. [276726]

Paul Clark: Under the Railways Act 2005 a rail passenger service can be temporarily withdrawn. No maximum time period is specified.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provisions exist to allow a referral to be made to the Office of Rail Regulation to determine whether changes to a rail passenger service constitute *(a)* temporary withdrawal of that service and *(b)* its closure. [276727]

Paul Clark: There are no provisions under the Railways Act 2005 to allow such a referral to be made.

Road Traffic Control: Urban Areas

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information local authorities provide to his Department on their traffic management in conurbations; and if he will make a statement. [277239]

Paul Clark: English local authorities outside London provide information on their delivery of traffic management measures, and relevant outcomes, through the Local Transport Plan (LTP) process. LTPs, and LTP progress reports, are available on local authority websites. At the request of the Department for Transport, LTP progress reports from 2006 and 2008 included information from these authorities on their delivery of the Network Management Duty, as introduced by the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Roads: Per Capita Costs

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much per head of population was spent from the public purse on roads in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2009 to date; [276461]

(2) how much his Department spent on *(a)* new building, *(b)* maintenance and *(c)* lighting in respect of roads in (i) rural and (ii) urban areas in each of the last 11 years. [276462]

Paul Clark: The information is not available in the form requested.

Funding for investment, maintenance and operation of strategic roads is the responsibility of the Highways Agency. These roads pass through both rural and urban areas, but it is not possible to allocate the spend between them. Details of Highways Agency expenditure are included in their Annual Report and Accounts at:

http://www.highways.gov.uk/aboutus/documents/Revised_Annual_Report_Accounts_25_[illegible]_08.pdf

Expenditure on non-strategic roads is for local authorities and Transport for London. The Department for Transport provides some support for this expenditure, but it is for local authorities to decide the proportion of their overall available resources to be spent on roads, and the allocation of resources to different parts of their area. Statistics on local government expenditure are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/financialstatistics182008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government has made of the likely effect of the proposed Afghan Shia family law in Afghanistan on the rights of Afghan women; and if he will make a statement. [276146]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised our concerns with President Karzai. We welcome President Karzai's decision to ask the Minister of Justice to review the legislation in question and his announcement on 27 April 2009 that the 'Shia Family' law would be changed to bring it in line with the constitution, which guarantees equal rights for women, and the international treaties to which Afghanistan is a party. We will continue to follow the progress of this issue closely.

As my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, has said, the Afghans obviously have the right to write their own laws. However, we were dismayed that some reported provisions of the Bill as it was drafted ran counter to Afghanistan's international human rights obligations. This Bill, if it had become law as drafted, would have had a significantly detrimental impact on the rights of women.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the Afghan Government on the proposed Shia Personal Status Law; and what discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* US counterparts on the appropriate international response to this legislation. [271012]

David Miliband: We continue to urge the Afghan Government to uphold the Afghan Constitution, which demands equal treatment of men and women, and to adhere to Afghanistan's international legal obligations under the human rights conventions it has signed up to, including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

As my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, has said, the Afghans obviously have the right to write their own laws. However, we were dismayed that some reported provisions of the Bill as it was drafted ran counter to Afghanistan's international human rights obligations. This Bill, if it had become law as drafted, would have had a significantly detrimental impact on the rights of women.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised our concerns about the law with President Karzai. We welcome President Karzai's decision to ask the Minister of Justice to review the legislation in question, and his announcement on 27 April 2009 that the law would be changed to bring it in line with the constitution, and the international treaties to which Afghanistan is a party. We will continue to follow the progress of this issue closely.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what costs have been incurred in each case in which the Government was taken to the European Court of Human Rights after the entry into force of the Human Rights Act 1998. [274037]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office do not hold a record of the overall cost of the Government's defence of each application to the European Court of Human Rights since the entry into force of the Human Rights Act.

Human Rights: EU Action

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 4-7WS, on the General Affairs and External Relations Council, what proposals the Swedish Foreign Minister made for publicising the EU's work on human rights; and to which officials the Presidency referred further work. [275453]

Caroline Flint: The Swedish Foreign Minister proposed that the EU should consider the following: consolidating on one easily recognisable website a range of information about the EU's human rights work; strengthening the EU Annual Report on Human Rights; reinforcing the EU's day-to-day public diplomacy in respect of human rights; and issuing public reports on human rights situations in third countries.

The presidency referred the matter to the Political and Security Committee for further consideration.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations his Department has made to the Russian Government on the trial of Mr. Mikhail Khodorkovsky; and if he will make a statement; [274597]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to monitor the trial of Mr. Mikhail Khodorkovsky; and if he will make a statement. [274598]

David Miliband: We regularly raise our concerns regarding the case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, bilaterally and through the EU. The issue was raised bilaterally at the UK/Russia human rights consultations in January in Moscow. Our concerns include the arbitrary application of the rule of law, due process and fair treatment of Khodorkovsky and others who have been arrested or prosecuted in the Yukos Affair, access to lawyers and medical care, conditions of detention and the alleged harassment of defence teams and witnesses.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister did not specifically raise Mr. Khodorkovsky's situation during his bilateral with President Medvedev at the G20 summit. However, during their bilateral the Prime Minister and President Medvedev agreed that both governments should continue to work together to resolve the areas on which the UK and Russia differ. The Government will continue to raise specific human rights cases, not only through the bilateral human rights consultations.

The UK is participating in trial monitoring with EU partners and the US. We will continue to follow developments in Mr. Khodorkovsky's case.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he discussed the case of Mr. Mikhail Khodorkovsky with President Medvedev at the G20 summit; and if he will make a statement. [274601]

David Miliband: During my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's bilateral with President Medvedev before the G20 Summit, a number of issues of concern to the UK were raised.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of civilians *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in northern Sri Lanka between 8 and 11 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [275963]

Caroline Flint: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said at the UN on 11 May 2009, we are appalled at the recent reports of civilian casualties. The ongoing conflict makes it difficult to be certain of the facts of the present situation, which is compounded by the lack of access for international agencies and the media, so it remains difficult to confirm the exact number of casualties. Estimates vary wildly, depending on the source. We have made clear to the Government of Sri Lanka our concerns over the disturbing reports of the continued use of heavy weapons and civilian casualties. Following the Foreign Secretary's discussions with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 12 May 2009, they released a joint statement calling for the Government of Sri Lanka to abide by its commitment of 27 April 2009 to end major combat operations and the use of heavy weapons. They called on all sides to end hostilities immediately and allow for the safe evacuation of the tens of thousands of civilians trapped within the safe zone.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Sri Lankan Government on civilian deaths during the recent fighting in the north east of the island. [276263]

Caroline Flint: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said at the UN on 11 May 2009, we are appalled at the recent reports of heavy fighting and civilian casualties. We condemn the killing of civilians in the strongest possible terms. During his recent visit to Sri Lanka with French Foreign Minister Kouchner, the Foreign Secretary made clear to the Sri Lankan Government that the safety of civilians must be paramount and that hostilities must end immediately. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary spoke to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollagama on 10,11 and 13 May 2009 to express our grave concern over the continued reports of heavy fighting and civilian casualties and to underline the urgent need for a pause in fighting to allow civilians to leave the conflict area safely.

Sri Lanka: Press Freedom

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the government of Sri Lanka on the arrest and expulsion of Channel 4 journalist Nick Paton Walsh and two of his colleagues; and if he will make a statement. [275959]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Foreign Minister Bogollagama on 10 May 2009, expressing our disappointment at the detainment and deportation of three Channel 4 journalists from Sri Lanka the day before. The Foreign Secretary made clear our view that there is an overwhelming need for greater transparency, not less. We have consistently called for access for international monitors and the media. Our high commission in Colombo has lodged a formal protest with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the incident.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 268581 tabled on 30 March 2009 on the G20 Summit; and if he will make a statement. [275528]

Gillian Merron: This question was answered on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1149W. The delay in replying was due to an administrative error.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 272621, tabled on 30 April 2009, on the number of records stored on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System. [276795]

Caroline Flint: This question was answered on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1322W. The delay in replying was due to an administrative error.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Management

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions in management there were at each level in each of the last five years. [268146]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship starts in management-related frameworks (business administration and management) in the last five years.

Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship completions in management-related frameworks (business administration and management) in the last five years.

Table 1: Number of apprenticeship starts in business administration and management by level, 2003/04 to 2007/08

		Sector framework		
Academic year	*Level*	*Business administration*	*Management*	*Total*
2003/04	Advanced Apprenticeship	3,400	800	4,200
	Apprenticeship	14,700	100	14,800
	Total	18,100	900	19,000
2004/05	Advanced Apprenticeship	3,100	500	3,600
	Apprenticeship	13,100	1,100	14,200
	Total	16,200	1,600	17,800
2005/06	Advanced Apprenticeship	3,300	400	3,700
	Apprenticeship	11,800	1,500	13,300
	Total	15,100	1,900	16,900
2006/07	Advanced Apprenticeship	4,100	600	4,600
	Apprenticeship	11,400	1,400	12,800
	Total	15,500	2,000	17,500

Table 1: Number of apprenticeship starts in business administration and management by level, 2003/04 to 2007/08

		Sector framework		
Academic year	*Level*	*Business administration*	*Management*	*Total*
2007/08	Advanced Apprenticeship	5,300	2,200	7,500
	Apprenticeship	12,800	3,900	16,700
	Total	18,100	6,100	24,200

Table 1: Number of apprenticeship completions in business administration and management by level, 2003/04 to 2007/08

		Sector framework		
Academic year	*Level*	*Business administration*	*Management*	*Total*
2003/04	Advanced Apprenticeship	1,200	100	1,300
	Apprenticeship	5,500	-	5,500
	Total	6,600	100	6,700
2004/05	Advanced Apprenticeship	1,400	200	1,600
	Apprenticeship	6,500	-	6,500
	Total	8,000	200	8,200
2005/06	Advanced Apprenticeship	2,100	200	2,300
	Apprenticeship	8,300	500	8,800
	Total	10,400	700	11,000
2006/07	Advanced Apprenticeship	2,800	300	3,000
	Apprenticeship	8,600	800	9,300
	Total	11,300	1,000	12,400
2007/08	Advanced Apprenticeship	2,900	300	3,200
	Apprenticeship	7,600	800	8,400
	Total	10,500	1,100	11,600

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred, therefore figures may not sum to the totals shown as they are calculated using unrounded data.
2. Figures under 50 have been suppressed and replaced with a "–".
3. Figures for advanced apprenticeships include higher level apprenticeships (HLA) to be consistent with the information published in statistical first releases. HLA numbers are currently too small to include as a separate category.
4. Tables use programme starts/completions as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts/completions at any point during the year. Learners starting/completing more than one course will appear more than once.

Source:
Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record (WBL ILR)

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997, we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. J. Harris, transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions. [276505]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

A response to the letter, from the Minister for Schools and Learners was sent to the right hon. Member on 15 May.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in implementing the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in UK and international military programmes in Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [275862]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is committed to the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, to protect the rights of women and girls in areas suffering conflict, and to incorporate their perspectives in conflict resolution and peacekeeping planning. In Afghanistan, the impact on women is routinely considered as we take forward our military, stabilisation, governance and reconstruction activity. In support of this resolution the UK is funding various programmes to promote women's equal participation in governance and to build awareness of women's rights among civil society and policy makers. This includes two bilateral programmes that address

issues of violence against women. The Government contribute £737,000 to the UN Development Fund for Women (UNTFEM)'s Elimination of Violence against Women Special Fund. Through this programme, Government partners and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are being supported to improve protection and assistance to women at risk and victims of violence. The UK is also supporting a five-year Women's Empowerment programme from 2005-10, implemented by the NGO Womankind. This £500,000 initiative focuses on promoting women's equal participation in governance; building awareness of women's rights among civil society and policy makers; and on providing educational, health, community and counselling support for victims of violence.

Despite the challenges, progress has been made:

Over a third of children now enrolled in school are girls.

We have committed over £35 million to support the Afghan government's micro-finance programme, giving women in particular better access to finance.

Following the adoption of a quota system, 27 per cent. of seats in the lower house of the Afghan Parliament are now held by women.

Armed Forces: Housing

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what proportion of service single accommodation properties in Scotland are unoccupied; [274994]

(2) how many and what proportion of service family properties in Scotland are unoccupied. [274996]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 1 May 2009, 577 (18 per cent.) out of 3,227 service family accommodation (SFA) properties in Scotland were unoccupied.

Single living accommodation is classed as unoccupied when it is not routinely used overnight. However, this includes, for example, rooms which are assigned to individuals on operational deployments and not available for reassignment.

As at September 2008, the latest date for which figures are centrally held, 3,720 (43 per cent.) out of 8,530 single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces in Scotland were unoccupied.

Service accommodation can be unoccupied for various reasons, such as, being held pending due to planned moves of service personnel, is subject to major maintenance, modernisation, demolition or disposal work.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency: Disciplinary Proceedings

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Chief Operating Officer and Financial Director of Defence Storage and Distribution Agency has been suspended. [276716]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Fraud Analysis Unit has conducted an investigation into commercial activities at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency. While fraud has not been identified, the report raises potentially serious issues and an internal investigation has therefore been commissioned. The chief executive and former finance director, now director corporate services, have been suspended on full pay pending the outcome of this investigation.

Defence: Fife

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in the defence sector in Dunfermline and West Fife constituency in each of the last five years. [276667]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is not held in the format requested, therefore the MOD is not able to provide these figures at constituency level. However, figures can be provided for the numbers of MOD civilian and service personnel who are directly employed at MOD establishments/bases located in the Fife local authority area, which includes West Fife and Dunfermline, for each of the last three years. This information is provided in the following table.

	All MOD service personnel	*MOD civilian personnel*	*Total*
2006	1,790	790	2,580
2007	1,670	770	2,440
2008	1,540	730	2,270

Estimates for those people in Scotland employed directly and indirectly in industry, commerce and those companies that receive contracts directly from MOD and indirectly through the supply chain supporting such contracts, for each of the last five years, is provided in the following table.

This information is not held in the format requested, i.e. broken down by constituency.

	Direct	*Indirect*	*Total*
2002-03	10,000	2,500	12,500
2003-04	10,000	2,500	12,500
2004-05	9,000	2,500	11,500
2005-06	9,000	2,500	11,500
2006-07	7,000	2,000	9,000

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 500 jobs.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273566]

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [269548]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269575]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD Sustainable Development Strategy identifies Green ICT as a key enabler in reducing the emissions from our estate and we remain committed to achieving the stated targets provided as follows.

1 January 2009

Green ICT Roadmap to deliver Government targets developed (completed).

January 2010

Be ready to report on the progress made towards ICT Carbon Neutrality.

2012

Energy consumption of Government ICT on the office estate will be Carbon Neutral by 2012.

2020

All new MOD ICT will be Carbon Neutral across its lifecycle.

MOD played a key role in creating and chairing Government's Green ICT Delivery Unit for the Chief Information Officer (CIO)/Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Councils.

We established an internal Sustainable Procurement Programme Office in 2008 that has incorporated all of the key steps from the Greening Government ICT Strategy into our overarching policies and guidance for procurement. We have also run the challenging Green ICT Scorecard against our current and future infrastructure service.

Additionally, MOD has produced a CIO Green ICT Roadmap. This is being followed in delivering the ongoing rollout of DII(F).

Information about energy consumption, energy cost and carbon dioxide emissions from our ICT equipment for each of the past five years is not been held in the format requested and so any retrospective estimate could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to its civil servants in bonuses in each year since 1997; and *(a)* how many bonuses were paid, *(b)* what the aggregate monetary value of the bonuses was and *(c)* what the highest bonus paid was in each such year. [275003]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Bonus arrangements for senior civil service (SCS) staff were changed in 2002-03, and for staff below the SCS, new bonus arrangements were introduced in 2003. Therefore, information between 1997 and 2003 is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The amounts paid to civil servants in each year, the number of bonuses paid and the aggregate monetary value of the bonuses and the highest bonus in each year since the 2003-04 FY are shown as follows. Figures for payment in FY 2009-10 are not yet available.

Financial year	*Number of bonuses paid*	*Value of bonuses paid (£)*	*Maximum bonus (£)*
2008-09	64,831	48,264,950	50,000
2007-08	60,830	44,762,633	50,000
2006-07	59,629	41,430,104	12,546
2005-06	49,091	43,310,700	14,340
2004-05	46,267	34,998,823	11,358
2003-04	39,522	24,901,150	9,822

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275261]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is provided in the following table. These figures include staff in MOD agencies but exclude trading funds.

2008-09

	Number of payments made	*Value of payments made (£)*
End of year performance payments made to:		
Senior civil servants	187	1,500,000
Fixed term appointees	26	652,327
Staff below the level of the SCS	60,137	40,196,000

For the SCS, the size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. For performance year 2007-08 to which the information refers, the limit was set at 8.6 per cent. of the SCS pay pot. The median payment was £8,000. The Government have responded positively to current economic conditions by freezing the size of the pot for payments to be made in 2009-10.

The total paybill for staff below the senior civil service, excluding trading funds, covered by the main pay award is £1.827 billion, of which, up to 2.7 per cent. is for non-consolidated performance awards to staff. The median payment in 2008-09 was £775.

EH101 Helicopters

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the performance and effectiveness of the UK's current fleet of AW101 Merlin helicopters; for how long he estimates those aircraft will remain in service in the UK armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [276729]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK operates two basic variants of Merlin helicopter; the Merlin Mk1, which entered service in 1999, delivers a variety of maritime roles and the Mk3/3a, which entered service in 2000 (Mk3) and 2008 (Mk3a), is operated in a battlefield support role. Since introduction into service, the Merlin helicopter has proved itself to be a very capable modern operational platform, having already provided excellent support to operations in Iraq and ongoing maritime and anti-piracy operations. We expect to deploy the Merlin to Afghanistan later this year.

Our Merlin aircraft are expected to remain in service for at least another 20 years, and we are exploring opportunities to extend this further. The Merlin Mk1 is already undergoing a major capability sustainment activity and we are currently investigating the optimum means of maintaining Merlin Mk3/3a capability.

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding from the public purse has been provided to the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society Combat Stress in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2008-09. [276668]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows the funding received by Combat Stress for the years requested.

	Funding received by Combat Stress (£ million)
2004-05	2.0
2008-09	3.5

Funds are provided through the War Pensions Scheme's discretionary power to meet the cost of any necessary expenses in respect of medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment of ex-members of the armed forces that arise from a disablement due to service before 6 April 2005 where it is not provided for under other UK legislation. This includes the individual costs of war pensioners undergoing "remedial treatment" at homes ran by Combat Stress for conditions related to their individual pensioned disablement and of related expenses such as travel costs.

In October 2007, my hon. Friend the Member for Halton (Derek Twigg) announced a 45 per cent. increase to the fees paid to Combat Stress by the MOD and the Scottish Executive.

Military Bases

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military *(a)* bases and *(b)* other sites owned by his Department containing accommodation areas are (i) redundant and (ii) shortly to become redundant for his Department's purposes; on what date each became or is due to become redundant; what area each covers; what sanitation facilities each has; how many separate sleeping rooms there are; what perimeter fences there are; what the postal address of each site is; and what estimate he has made of the market value of each site. [276765]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 753W, on radioactive waste: waste management, if he will place in the Library a copy of his response to the hon. Member when it is issued. [276312]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A copy of my response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Rescue Services

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether UK Search and Rescue (SAR) services will continue to provide a 24 hour service for the UK SAR region from 12 bases in the UK when the Maritime and Coastguard Agency service contract ends in 2012. [276542]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Construction: Manpower

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of the 100,000 jobs the Government expects to be created early this year are expected to arise in the construction industry. [247820]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The pre-Budget report announced the Government's commitment to providing timely, targeted and temporary support to the economy by bringing forward £3 billion of capital spending from 2010-11 into 2008-09 and 2009-10. This additional investment is already supporting a number of industries and employing people across the country.

As the update on the capital fiscal stimulus provided at Budget showed, the majority of the public sector capital projects being brought forward involve construction activity. It is therefore expected that the bulk of the resulting employment impact will be in the construction sector. There are no centrally-prescribed rules for how the additional jobs will be allocated: the Departments concerned are responsible for determining how the funding is most effectively spent.

As set out at Budget 2009, the total announced policy support for the UK economy is expected to protect up to half a million jobs through the fiscal stimulus, together with MPC decisions to cut the Bank of England interest rate and quantitative easing.

TREASURY

Bank Services

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the proportion of households with a bank account in each region of the UK. [272718]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to reducing financial exclusion and increasing the number of people who can manage their money by using a bank account.

The Family Resources Survey data for 2006-07, published in June this year, show that the number of adults without access to a bank account fell from 2.8 million in 2002-03 to 2.1 million in 2006-07. The survey data also show that around 95 per cent. of households in the UK are 'banked'. The profile of banked households by Government office region are as follows:

Government office region	*Banked households (Percentage)*
East Midlands	86
Eastern	93
London	92
North East	93
North West	91
Northern Ireland	86
Scotland	91
South East	96
South West	95
Wales	93
West Midlands	91
Yorks and Humberside	91

Government office region	Banked households (Percentage)
Total count	92

The Financial Inclusion Taskforce recently published its third annual report on access to banking. The report contains profiles of the number of people in the UK without access to a bank account, including breakdowns by region. The report is on the taskforce's website at:

http://www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk

Banks: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what position the Government holds in relation to other shareholders in the ranking for settlement in *(a)* Bradford and Bingley and *(b)* Northern Rock. [276679]

Ian Pearson: Shares in both banks were transferred to the Treasury when the banks were taken into public ownership. The amount of any compensation due to former shareholders will be decided by an independent valuer. The valuer for Northern Rock has already been appointed and further information can be found on his website at:

http://www.northernrockvaluer.org.uk/

The valuer for Bradford and Bingley will be appointed shortly.

Bradford and Bingley

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 417W, on Bradford and Bingley, whether his Department proposed changes to the business plan before agreeing it with the Board. [276504]

Ian Pearson: Treasury officials worked co-operatively with Bradford and Bingley in keeping with the shareholder relationship framework document over a number of months as the bank developed its business plan.

Building Societies: Credit Rating

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of downgrading of the credit rating of some UK building societies; and if he will make a statement. [276472]

Ian Pearson: The Government note the recent ratings downgrades for some UK building societies and will continue to do what is necessary to protect depositors and consumers, ensure financial stability, protect public funds and support the wider economy. The Government welcome the role that mutuals play in the wider community, and in ensuring the diversity of the UK financial services sector.

Housing: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of Government expenditure was spent on housing in each year since 1997. [275948]

Yvette Cooper: Government expenditure on housing and community amenities from 1987-88 is laid out in the Budget 2009 National Statistics functional tables available at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_functionaltables.xls

Total managed expenditure is a measure of public sector expenditure on a National Accounts basis and is included at the above link.

Job Creation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of the planned 100,000 new jobs will be in the public sector; and what the timetable is for their creation; [250508]

(2) how many of the up to 100,000 new jobs he plans to create will be in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the public sector; and over what period of time the jobs will be created. [258728]

Yvette Cooper: The 2008 pre-Budget report announced the Government's commitment to providing timely, targeted and temporary support to the economy by bringing forward £3 billion of capital spending from 2010-11 into 2008-09 and 2009-10. This additional investment is already supporting a number of industries and employing people across the country.

As the update on the capital fiscal stimulus provided at Budget showed, the majority of the public sector capital projects being brought forward involve construction activity. It is therefore expected that the bulk of the resulting employment impact will be in the construction sector. There are no centrally-prescribed rules for how the additional jobs will be allocated: the Departments concerned are responsible for determining how the additional funding is most effectively spent.

As set out at Budget 2009, the total announced policy support for the UK economy is expected to protect up to half a million jobs through the fiscal stimulus, together with MPC decisions to cut the Bank of England interest rate and quantitative easing.

Mortgages: Complaints

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints the Financial Services Authority received on *(a)* mortgages and *(b)* repossession of homes by mortgage lenders in each of the last five years. [266283]

Ian Pearson: The matters raised in this question are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, the day-to-day operations of which are independent from Government control and influence. The FSA wrote to the hon. Member on 13 May.

National Insurance Contributions: Local Authorities

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of the increase in national insurance contributions for employers announced in the pre-Budget report 2008. [246393]

Yvette Cooper: The total employers' national insurance contributions (NICs) for English local authority staff in 2007-08, including police, fire and rescue staff and teachers is set out in the Local Authority Revenue Expenditure Final Outturn 2007-08, which can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/ro0708fin.pdf

The additional cost of national insurance contributions incurred by councils from 2011 onwards will be considered in the normal way in the next spending review. This will be made in the proper spending review process alongside a holistic view of all additional costs experienced by the sector at this time.

Public Finance: Migration

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will recalculate Table 4.1 on page 36 and Table 4.2 on page 42 of his Department's report of March 2008 on long-term public finance: an analysis of fiscal sustainability assuming long-term average annual net migration of *(a)* 50,000 a year, *(b)* 60,000 a year, *(c)* 100,000 a year, *(d)* 6 per cent. below the principal migration projection each year, *(e)* 5 per cent. below the principal migration projection each year and *(f)* zero. [276279]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* Table 4.3 on page 45 of the 2008 long-term public finance report shows the sensitivity of spending projections to alternative assumptions on fertility, life expectancy and migration. The next Long-term public finance report will be published in 2009.

Public Sector: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph C.76, page 242 of the 2009 Budget, if he will place in the Library a copy of the actuarial advice he has received on public sector pensions; and if he will make a statement. [272645]

Yvette Cooper: The actuarial advice referred to in paragraph C.76 is that received by individual schemes, reflecting the particular scheme characteristics.

Public Sector: Recruitment

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government is taking to increase public sector employment in deprived areas. [275477]

Yvette Cooper: The Budget announced a Future Jobs Fund, which will provide funding for an additional 50,000 jobs in areas of high unemployment across the country. A further 100,000 jobs, as well as work placements and work-focused training, will be offered to all young people aged 18-24 who have claimed jobseeker's allowance for 12 months. We expect many of the jobs, made available through the Future Jobs Fund, to be provided by local authorities.

Stock Market: Regulation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Financial Services Authority on the regulation of the stock market. [275438]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with colleagues in the Financial Services Authority on an ongoing basis. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs decided not to issue PA10 forms for the tax year 2008-09; and what measures are in place to ensure that taxpayers who are not required to file self-assessment returns do not pay an incorrect amount in tax. [273111]

Mr. Timms: The P810 (Tax Review) form is a non-statutory form and acts as a reminder for customers to advise HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) if they have any additional tax liabilities or unclaimed expenses.

P810 forms are issued on a three-year cycle so there is leeway in the process to control their issue. By not issuing the P810 forms, HMRC will be able to focus its resources on the delivery of the PAYE service, which replaces the current IT PAYE system introduced in the early 1980s. Priority will be given to repayment claims and other unsolicited correspondence from customers. HMRC will resume the issue of P810 forms from April 2010.

Customers are obliged to tell HMRC of any such changes regardless of the issue of a form P810. This is set out on the P2 Notice of Coding, which details the allowances and deductions that have been included in an individual's tax code. P2 notices are issued when HMRC is told of any changes to a customer's circumstances or as part of the annual coding review each January.

Unpaid Taxes

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the outstanding cost to the Exchequer of unpaid tax over each of the last five years. [271112]

Mr. Timms: Figures for the outstanding amount of tax debt and revenue losses (tax and duty written off each year) are published in HM Revenue and Customs' Annual Accounts, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Administration costs incurred in recovering tax debt and interest paid on additional Government borrowing as a result of unpaid tax represent additional costs to the Exchequer.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 902W, on Valuation Office, when he plans to place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* Introduction to Inspections Workbook, *(b)* CT Referencers Manual and *(c)* NDR Referencers Manual; [276671]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 178W, on Valuation Office: conferences, when he plans to place in the Library copies of the presentations and handouts from the International Property Tax Institute conference held in Pretoria in March 2009; [276693]

(3) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 179W, on Valuation Office: conferences, when he plans

to place in the Library copies of the presentations and handouts from the European Valuation Standards conference held in Warsaw on 1 April 2009; [276694]

(4) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 424W, on Valuation Office: overseas visits, when he plans to place in the Library copies of the presentations given at the *(a)* Russian Society of Appraisers conference in Moscow and *(b)* International Property Tax Institute conference in Beijing. [276695]

Mr. Timms: These documents have now been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 636W, on Valuation Office: training, when he plans to place in the Library a copy of the e-learning dwelling house coding module. [276672]

Mr. Timms: Due to the volume of data the document can only be deposited in CD Rom format. Arrangements are being made for this to be deposited in the Library of the House.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 262, on the Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble, how much has been paid to Cole Layer Trumble and Tyler Technologies for work undertaken on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency to date. [275853]

Mr. Timms: Over the past six years, a total of £3.71 million has been paid to Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies for this work. This figure excludes non-recoverable VAT.

Valuation Office: Technical Forecasts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has made to Technical Forecasts Limited in the last 12 months; and to what types of properties the forecast models developed by the company for the VOA relate. [275765]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has a contract with Technical Forecasts Limited to provide property value forecasts on behalf of HM Treasury.

The contract runs until 31 December 2009 and is subject to a confidentiality clause that prevents details of the payments for this service being disclosed. The types of property for which forecast data have been prepared are as follows: agricultural land, residential building land, and offices.

Forecasts are also provided for future movements in the prices of office equipment.

The forecasts are then incorporated in indices prepared for HM Treasury by the VOA for use in updating property asset valuations for capital accounting purposes.

Valuation Office: Training

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* e-learning programmes and *(b)* modules the Valuation Office Agency has. [275784]

Mr. Timms: There are currently 26 e-learning programmes available to all Valuation Office Agency staff. These are listed as follows and broken down by module.

1. Creation (Address Application)

Foundation (Address Application)

Retrieval (Address Application)

Structure (Address Application)

2. Improving Customer Service (Enquiry Handling and Appeals Direct)

Overview (Enquiry Handling and Appeals Direct)

Processes (Enquiry Handling and Appeals Direct)

3. Grammar (Basic English Skills Grammar and Punctuation)

Punctuation (Basic English Skills Grammar and Punctuation)

4. Conversion to GIA (Code of Measuring Practice)

Measuring Non-domestic Property (Code of Measuring Practice)

Overview (Code of Measuring Practice)

5. Introduction to Council Tax (Council Tax—Updated)

Legal Principles (Council Tax—Updated)

Main Sources of Council Tax Information (Council Tax—Updated)

Valuation Issues (Council Tax—Updated)

Valuation Process (Council Tax—Updated)

6. An Introduction (Data Security)

Assessment (Data Security)

Practical Application (Data Security)

7. How to Dictate (Digital Dictation)

Introduction to Digital Dictation (Digital Dictation)

8. Ageing a Dwelling (Dwellinghouse Coding)

Dwellinghouse Coding (Dwellinghouse Coding)

Practical Application (Dwellinghouse Coding)

Property Details Effective Dates (Dwellinghouse Coding)

Recording Property Attributes on the CDB (Dwellinghouse Coding)

9. Employee Self Service—ESS (Enterprise Resource Planning ERP)

ESS Travel and Expenses (Enterprise Resource Planning ERP)

ESS Working Time (Enterprise Resource Planning ERP)

Managers Self Service—MSS (Enterprise Resource Planning ERP)

Overview (Enterprise Resource Planning ERP)

10. Equal Opportunities and Diversity Essentials (Equality and Diversity In Practice)

Exploring Equal Opportunities and Diversity (Equality and Diversity In Practice)

Managing Diversity (Equality and Diversity In Practice)

11. Euclidian

12. Fire Awareness in the Workplace

13. Freedom of Information (Freedom of Information including Data Protection and Other Information Law)

Data Protection (Freedom of Information including Data Protection and Other Information Law)

Other Information Law (Freedom of Information including Data Protection and Other Information Law)

Programme Overview (Freedom of Information inc. Data Protection and Other Information Law)

14. Asbestos Awareness A Practical Guide (Health and Safety Site Inspections)

Hazards on Site (Health and Safety Site Inspections)

Health and Safety Site Visits (Health and Safety Site Inspections)
Personal Protective Equipment (Health and Safety Site Inspections)
15. Introduction to the VOA Internet (Introduction to the VOA Internet
16. MS Office
17.Omnidox
18. Continuous feedback (Performance Management)
End of Year Review (Performance Management)
Mid Year Review (Performance Management)
Performance Management and Review (Strategic Asset Management)
Performance Management Cycle (Performance Management)
Preparing for the Performance Year Ahead (Performance Management)
19. Co-ordination (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
Defence Support Package (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
Maintenance of the List (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
Programme Overview (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
Rating Regulations (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
Resolving a Rating Appeal (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
Right First Time (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
Robust Defence (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
Valuation Tribunals (Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence)
20. RSA Pattern Valuation Process 2005 Rating List (RSA Pattern Valuation Process 2005 Rating List)
21. Asset Programmes (Strategic Asset Management)
Delivery (Strategic Asset Management)
Performance Management and Review (Strategic Asset Management)
Strategy Development (Strategic Asset Management)
What is Public Sector SAM? (Strategic Asset Management)
22.Ten Thumbs
23. The Development Process (Job-holders) (The Development Process including Assessment Centres)
The Development Process (Line-managers) (The Development Process including Assessment Centres)
What Route Should I Take? (Annex 2) (The Development Process including Assessment Centres)
Where do I want to go? (Annex 1) (The Development Process including Assessment Centres)
24. Assessment and Evaluation (The VOA Welcome Programme)
Behaviour at Work (The VOA Welcome Programme)
Diversity and Equality (The VOA Welcome Programme)
e-Learning for VOA Employees (The VOA Welcome Programme)
Health and Safety Background (The VOA Welcome Programme)
Practical Health and Safety (The VOA Welcome Programme)
Security and confidentiality (The VOA Welcome Programme)
Use of Resources (The VOA Welcome Programme)
Welcome to the VOA (The VOA Welcome Programme)
Your Employment Terms (The VOA Welcome Programme)
25.Transfer of TRS Functions to the VOA (Transfer of TRS Functions to the VOA)
26. Applications and Expressions of Interest (Vacancy Filling)
Feedback and Development (Vacancy Filling)
Passing the Sift (Vacancy Filling)
Programme Overview (Vacancy Filling)
Setting the Scene (Vacancy Filling)
The Interview (Vacancy Filling)
The Sifting Process (Vacancy Filling)

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he expects to write off relating to tax credit overpayments made in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [275379]

Mr. Timms: Overpayments will be written off where there has been a mistake by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the customer has met all their responsibilities, or where the practicality of collecting overpayments does not provide value for money for the taxpayer. On this last set of grounds, HMRC currently intends to write off £230-240 million of debt for the tax year 2003-04 to date. This will be reflected in the Department's Annual Accounts, which are published annually. A breakdown by tax year is not currently available.

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many families *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in Amber Valley with outstanding tax credit overpayments from 2003-04 and 2004-05 had an income at the time of overpayment of (i) up to £5,000, (ii) £5,000 to £10,000, (iii) £10,000 to £15,000, (iv) £15,000 to £20,000, (v) £20,000 to £30,000, (vi) £30,000 to £40,000, (vii) £40,000 to £50,000 and (viii) over £50,000; and if he will make a statement; [275380]

(2) how many families have outstanding tax credit overpayments originating in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05 (i) in the UK and (ii) in Amber Valley; and if he will make a statement. [275381]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments at country, regional and constituency level, are available in the HMRC publications, 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis'. These numbers are based on final family circumstances and incomes and are available for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Further information on overpayments at UK level is also available on the same website in the HMRC publications, 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments', also for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07.

Information for 2007-08 is not yet available at parliamentary constituency level. The geographical finalised awards publications have been delayed following a problem identified with the delivery of geographical information, although this does not affect the UK level statistics, which were published on 19 May 2009. More information can be found on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on building maintenance since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [274557]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has spent £666,967 on facilities management services for its two buildings since its creation. These services include building maintenance but we do not record this separately.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use since its establishment. [273780]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is as follows:

A. Internal

£6,783 for establishing electronic DECC branded stationery files to date. Establishing these electronic templates means we are able to keep ongoing stationery costs to a minimum.

£2,454: the cost of a mug for each member of staff, and low-cost pens.

B. External

£69,089 excluding VAT for various promotional items, including branded bags and stand-by savers, to support events and other PR activity as part of the Act on CO_2 campaign to encourage genuine and sustained carbon reduction behaviour change. This covers the period September 2008 and March 2009. Costs include some storage and distribution.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges since its creation. [274203]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is as follows:

(a) DECC do not hold the cost of purchasing recycled office supplies at this level of detail.

(b) To date, printer cartridges have been supplied as part of IT or facilities management service contracts with BERR and DEFRA. The cost of purchasing cartridges is not available as they are not identified separately for DECC usage.

Energy: Meters

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what programme he has established for the roll-out of the installation of domestic smart meters; and what opportunities contractors will have to bid for contracts to install such meters. [276022]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government published a consultation on smart metering on 11 May 2009. The consultation is available on the open consultations section of the DECC website.

The consultation document includes discussion of the preparation programme that will be needed before the roll-out of smart meters can begin. It also sets out the Government's preference for delivery model under which suppliers would procure and install smart meters and a national communications network would be put in place to support smart meter communications. Final decisions on both areas will be taken once the consultation is complete.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letters of 20 February and 26 March 2009 on his constituent, Mr J. Adams. [272312]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I responded to the hon. Member on 6 May 2009.

Natural Gas: Wales

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has provided to National Grid for the Felindre to Tirley pipeline. [276769]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Wind Power

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind farms there are in England and Wales; how much electricity each produced in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [275031]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are currently 120 operational wind farms in England and Wales (112 onshore and eight offshore)[1].

This Department do not hold generation data from individual wind farms on a yearly basis. However, at present, we have a provisional figure of 7,124.8 GWh for wind power generation in the UK as a whole in 2008.[2, 3]

Data for wind farms in England and Wales in 2007 can be found in our regional Renewables article[4] in the September 2008 edition of Energy Trends at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/trends/articles-issue/page43984.html

[1] *Source*: BWEA.

[2] Includes a small amount of solar PV and wave power.

[3] *Source*: Energy trends table 5.1.

[4] Includes a small amount of wave power.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Adviser Discretion Fund

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether the Adviser Discretion Fund provides funding to train an individual jobseeker in the preparation of a curriculum vitae; [272936]

(2) how much was made available for each activity funded by the Adviser Discretion Fund in 2008-09. [272937]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking whether the Adviser Discretion Fund provides funding to train an individual jobseeker in preparation of a curriculum vitae; and how much was made available for each activity funded by the Adviser Discretion Fund in 2008-09. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Adviser Discretion Fund is not ordinarily used for assisting people with their curriculum vitae as this type of support is provided through alternative means, for example, the recently announced additional support for newly unemployed people and Programme Centres. Access to these services is available as soon as a person has made a claim.

The Adviser Discretion Fund is not allocated on the basis of specific activities, so the information you seek is not available. District Managers are allocated a share of the overall allocation (£23 million in 2009/10), which is used flexibly and at the Adviser's discretion to address individual customer needs.

Departmental Fraud

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been lost by *(a)* each section of his Department and *(b)* each of his Department's agencies because of internal fraud in each of the last five years. [245255]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is not available in the exact format requested. I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 804W. We are able to provide the breakdown of losses in each agency in 2003-04 and 2004-05 as set out in the following table. From 2005-06 onwards HM Treasury reporting requires details at departmental level only. This analysis is consistent with the way in which the Department reports to HM Treasury on internal fraud.

£

Business	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Jobcentre Plus	71,100	36,670	—	—	—
Pension Service	600	876	—	—	—
Disability and Carers	40	11,913	—	—	—
Child Support Agency	1,812	3,338	—	—	—
Other	3,295	60	—	—	—
Totals	76,847	52,857	193,030	508,235	541,679

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to involve third party drug treatment providers in assisting problem drug users identified by Jobcentre Plus. [273801]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* Yes. From 27 April individuals who identify themselves as problem drug users to Jobcentre Plus staff in England are being referred to local drug treatment services to discuss the help and support available to them. In addition to this the Welfare Reform Bill includes provisions to pilot a mandatory referral and support regime for problem drug users.

Employment Schemes

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides to assist people who have been unemployed for less than six months to find new employment. [268204]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are doing all they can to help those who become unemployed to get back into work as quickly as possible. Although the claimant count is rising that does not mean people are not also moving off benefit—in April, 290,900 people flowed off unemployment benefits. Most people leave jobseeker's allowance quickly: over half of new claims last less than three months and around three quarters last less than six months.

In November we invested an extra £1.3 billion to ensure that through Jobcentre Plus we continue to provide personal help and advice to everyone who needs it—help in finding a job, filling in job applications and in writing CVs and advice on re-training and skills. In the Budget we committed a further £1.7 billion to support Jobcentre Plus and providers so that everyone can continue to receive high quality support.

Furthermore, on April 6 we introduced new support for newly unemployed customers who require support to update their job search skills. The new support will be available to customers following their initial interview at Jobcentre Plus, and can be tailored for those who have recently left a professional or executive job.

In addition, also from April, we have increased funding to the Adviser Discretion Fund (ADF), making it available from day 1 to any new customer who has made a successful claim to jobseeker's allowance. The ADF allows personal advisers to make discretionary payments to help jobseekers overcome barriers to applying for jobs.

The Government have also increased their engagement and access to Local Employment Partnership vacancies to help unemployed customers find work. People who have been out of work for more than 13 weeks may also get help with paying the interest on their mortgage.

Income Support: Interviews

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many mandatory six-month interview demands have been sent out to income support claimants in the last 12 months; how many of these have subsequently been *(a)* deferred and *(b)* waived; and if he will make a statement. [271780]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many mandatory six-month interview demands have been sent out to income support claimants in the last 12 months;

and how many of these have subsequently been (a) deferred and (b) waived. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The only Income Support customers required to attend an interview at the six-month point of their claim are lone parents. In the 12 months ending November 2008, we invited 141,600 lone parents to an interview with a personal adviser at the six-month point of their claim. Of these, 2,800 were deferred and 5,800 were waived.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the performance of Jobcentre Plus in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district against its customer service target for (i) timeliness, (ii) professionalism and (iii) information in each year since the target was launched, and in each of the last 24 months. [264237]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collated to Jobcentre Plus region and district level. It could only be provided at National level from April 2002 to March 2007 and at National and Jobcentre Plus Directorate level from April 2007. National level information is published in the Jobcentre Plus Annual Reports which are available in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how long on average it took to process a claim for jobseeker's allowance in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month since November 2008; and if he will make a statement; [269506]

(2) how many unprocessed jobseeker's allowance claims there were in *(a)* total and *(b)* each region in each month since November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269759]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your questions asking how long on average it took to process a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district in each month since November 2008 and if he will make a statement; and how many unprocessed Jobseeker's Allowance claims have been made in (a) total and (b) each region in each month since November 2008 and if he will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The target for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) is 11.5 days. This is calculated from the customer's initial date of contact to the date a decision is made on their claim. Our benefit processing system calculates the AACT by taking the clearance time of each individual claim, using the dates as described, and calculates an average across the volume of claims processed. We no longer gather data at a district level but at Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC) level. Information on AACT since November 2008, in month, per region and BDC has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus calculates the number of unprocessed JSA claims on a monthly basis by carrying out a count across the benefit processing system on the last working day of the month. On any given day a small number of claims will be in transit between offices, so the count will slightly understate the total number of unprocessed claims. Information on the number of outstanding claims since November 2008, in month, the total for Jobcentre Plus and per region has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 860-1W, on jobseeker's allowance, what the equivalent planning assumption is in respect of income-based jobseeker's allowance. [276433]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 May 2009]:* The Department does not publish an official forecast for claimant unemployment, whether in total or separately for the contributory, income-based and credits-only sections of the caseload.

The Budget report published HM Treasury's planning assumption for the UK claimant count, which is used for public finance projections. This is based on an average of around 30 forecasts by academic and City institutions, and is audited by the National Audit Office, but does not constitute an official Government forecast. The numbers within this assumption which are assumed to be income-based cases in Great Britain are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Number of claimants of income-based jobseeker's allowance*
2009-10	1,449,000
2010-11	1,830,000

Notes:

1. The figures quoted above relate to jobseeker's allowance claimants in Great Britain. Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office. They are rounded to the nearest thousand claimants, and include the impact of welfare reform measures, which will bring additional claimants onto jobseeker's allowance from other benefits.
2. The figures for 2009-10 are lower than the total claimant count published by the Office for National Statistics since those figures related to the United Kingdom, and include people who only receive contributory jobseeker's allowance or national insurance credits without any benefit being in payment. Similarly, both figures quoted are lower than the claimant count assumption published in the Budget report.
3. The figures presented above include 31,000 claimants in 2009-10 and 38,000 claimants in 2010-11 who are also claimants of contributory jobseeker's allowance. These are claimants who receive an income-based top up to their contributory allowance.
4. These figures are the average number of claimants over the financial years shown.
5. The figures quoted in the Budget and pre-Budget reports are for seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment in the UK. This is a cautious assumption based on the average of external forecasts and is not the Treasury's economic forecast.
6. The Budget report 2009 can be found at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_repindex.htm The latest assumption can be found on page 221 (boxC1).

Jobseeker's Allowance: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how long on average claimants resident in *(a)* Fife and *(b)* North East Fife constituency received jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years. [270860]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance off-flows by median (weeks) duration in the last five years

	Fife local authority	*North East Fife parliamentary constituency*
April 2004 to March 2005	9.1	9.0
April 2005 to March 2006	10.0	9.8
April 2006 to March 2007	11.5	11.3
April 2007 to March 2008	10.1	10.4

Jobseeker's allowance off-flows by median (weeks) duration in the last five years

	Fife local authority	*North East Fife parliamentary constituency*
April 2008 to March 2009	8.5	8.0

Notes:
1. Median durations are rounded to one decimal place.
2. This information is published on the Nomis website at www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. The information in the table relates to Jobseeker's Allowance claims completed in the relevant year, and does not include claimants still receiving jobseeker's allowance at the end of the year.
Source:
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

These figures are affected by changes in the overall composition of claimant unemployment, which during periods of rising or falling unemployment can dominate any changes in the average length of time that individuals can expect to remain on the count. Recent changes in the median duration of jobseeker's allowance off-flows will have been influenced by increases in claimant unemployment that have mainly reflected higher inflows to jobseeker's allowance. This has had the effect of reducing the median duration of the stock of jobseeker's allowance claimants and of the off-flows from that stock.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of young people in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 10 years. [272790]

Mr. McNulty: Information for Hemel Hempstead is not available.

Information for Hertfordshire is shown in the following table:

Proportion of young people aged 18-24 in Hertfordshire claiming jobseeker's allowance in the last 10 years

	Percentage
March:	
2000	2.2
2001	1.8
2002	2.1
2003	2.6
2004	2.8
2005	2.9
2006	3.4
2007	3.2
2008	2.7
2009	5.8

Notes:
1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.
3. Data excludes clerical cases.
4. Percentages are calculated using ONS mid year population statistics for the relevant year except for 2008 and 2009 which are based on mid-2007 estimates.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the code of conduct relating to Pathways to Work programmes for *(a)* prime contractors and *(b)* sub-contractors; and how many complaints his Department has received from sub-contractors relating to breaches of the code. [268937]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The Code of Conduct is an integral part of the Department for Work and Pensions Commissioning Strategy which was published in February 2008. Although both the Strategy and supporting Code were published by the time Pathways contracts were implemented, the procurement process did not include formal compliance with the Code, as was subsequently the case with the flexible New Deal.

Flexible New Deal will be the first provision commissioned fully under the Commissioning Strategy. Wherever possible, the Department has been working to the standards set out in the Strategy in advance of flexible New Deal implementation. Although the Code of Conduct formally forms part of the flexible New Deal contracts, the principles of the Code apply to all our supply chains.

Effective working arrangements between prime contractors and their sub-contractors are important to the Department in the delivery of Provider Led Pathways. All providers and their sub-contractors have a routeway for any complaints via the Department for Work Pensions website direct to the supplier inquiry team. We currently do not classify complaints by whether they are from providers or subcontractors but deal with them on an individual basis.

Social Security Benefits

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit payments were paid *(a)* by direct debit into bank accounts and *(b)* via the Post Office network through the Post Office card account in each of the last three years. [273082]

Mr. McNulty: The following table shows the number of benefit payment transactions paid *(a)* by direct payment into bank accounts and *(b)* via the Post Office network through the Post Office card account in each of the last three years.

	Million	
	Bank account	*Post Office card account*
2008-09	524.4	187.9
2007-08	483.8	195.6
2006-07	470.2	203.1

Note: Child benefit and war pensions are no longer administered by DWP and have therefore been excluded. *Source:* DWP, Corporate Banking and Method of Payment (COBAP).

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of benefits were paid *(a)* by direct debit into bank accounts and *(b)* via the Post Office network through the Post Office card account in each of the last three years. [273083]

Mr. McNulty: Information is not available in the precise format requested.

The following table shows the number of benefit accounts paid *(a)* by direct payment into bank accounts and *(b)* via the Post Office network through the Post Office card account in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

	Bank account	Million Post Office card account
2008	16.1	4.0
2007	15.5	4.2
2006	15.2	4.4

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded and refer to GB benefit payment accounts live and in payment as at June of each year. Customers with more than one benefit account will be counted for each account.
2. Child benefit and war pensions are no longer administered by DWP and have therefore been excluded.
Source:
DWP, Information Directorate.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of potential fraud were investigated where the Department considered there to be a high probability of prosecution in each of the last five years for which information is available; how many cases of potential fraud were taken to court; and how many cases achieved a conviction. [244731][1]

Mr. McNulty: The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the following table.

	Number of cases referred for prosecution	Number prosecuted	Number of convictions	Number of cases taken to court that accepted an alternative sanction
2003-04	10,048	10,358	9,027	n/a
2004-05	10,915	10,295	9,219	261
2005-06	9,814	10,262	8,740	170
2006-07	10,166	8,964	6,861	206
2007-08	10,288	10,274	7,745	278

n/a = Not available
Notes:
1. All cases for criminal investigation are taken forward as having the potential to result in prosecution; alternative sanctions of caution and administrative penalty are only offered on the basis that, if refused, prosecution remains an option for the Department. Decisions on whether a sanction and which type is appropriate are, rightly, only made when an investigation has been completed.
2. The number of cases prosecuted each year may exceed the number of cases referred for prosecution due to the length of time that can occur between referral and an available court date.
Sources:
1. Prosecution and conviction data for England and Wales from DWP/DH Legal Group.
2. Number of cases taken to court that accepted an alternative sanction (England and Wales only) from DWP/DH Legal Group.
3. Prosecution and conviction data for Scotland from FIBS and FRAIMS
4. No of cased referred for prosecution, administrative penalties and cautions data from FIBS and FRAIMS.

Additionally figures for housing benefit are shown as follows.

	Prosecutions	Convictions
2003-04	4,601	3,747
2004-05	5,544	4,688
2005-06	6,041	6,234
2006-07	6,023	5,860
2007-08	6,611	6,493

Note:
The decision to prosecute is taken by the appropriate local authority.
Source:
Local authority housing benefit administrative returns.

Social Security Benefits: Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether procedures are in place to review the entitlement to welfare benefits of prisoners sentenced to custody. [275490]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19]:* Prisoners convicted of a criminal offence and given a term of imprisonment do not get benefits. An exception is made in certain cases of housing benefit and council tax benefit where the overall absence will not exceed 13 weeks, on the grounds that loss of the home or falling into arrears of council tax in these circumstances would be an indirect and unjustified consequence of the punishment. Additionally payment of certain War Pensions and Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits is suspended for up to a year and paid on release, the reason being that these particular benefits are paid by way of compensation rather than to meet specific or general needs or to provide a measure of income-maintenance.

Details of all newly convicted prisoners in England, Scotland and Wales are sent weekly to the Department for Work and Pensions to check if any are receiving benefits or national insurance credits and for the appropriate action to be taken.

State Retirement Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners received state pension *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments in each of the last five years. [272473]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information about the number of pensioners who are overpaid or underpaid state pension is not held.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 214W, on departmental procurement, which items were purchased for the Deputy Prime Minister's Office; and if she will place a copy of each invoice in the Library. [272242]

1. *[Official Report, 17 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 1MC.]*

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) by my hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 970W.

All expenditure in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office was conducted in accordance with the principles of "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Derelict Land: Property Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for *(a)* social rent and *(b)* intermediate affordable housing were built on surplus public sector land in each of the last five years. [274831]

Mr. Iain Wright: This Department does not hold this information centrally. However, we are working with the Homes and Communities Agency and Government Departments to develop a robust system of data collection so that we can identify and record what housing development is taking place on public sector sites. The Homes and Communities Agency is also seeking the help of local authorities in establishing this database.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many actions under employment law were brought against the Department in each of the last three years, broken down by category of action; and how many were contested by the Department at an employment tribunal. [275626]

John Healey *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* In each of the last three years the Department for Communities and Local Government have received less than five actions under employment law. As a consequence, this information is not disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.

Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many vacant social sector dwellings there were in each region in each of the last three years; [271763]

(2) how many dwellings owned by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords in each region were vacant in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the total number of unoccupied dwellings in each region that figure represents in each year. [273896]

Mr. Iain Wright: The term social sector dwellings has been interpreted to mean "social rented" dwellings.

A table showing estimates of the number of social sector domestic empty dwellings in the last three years, and estimates for each of the last five years of the numbers of dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords in each region which are vacant, and the percentage of all vacant dwellings that these represent, is provided in the following table.

Total vacant dwellings reported by local authorities through council taxbase returns include long term and short term empty dwellings.

Figures for registered social landlords are for self-contained general needs units only.

Estimates of the numbers of dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords in each region which are vacant, and the percentage of all vacant dwellings that these represent

	2004				
	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
Local authority					
Number of vacants	6,000	19,630	9,910	4,970	6,000
Dwelling stock	190,000	588,000	326,000	218,000	258,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.3	2.9
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	14.9	8.2	11.6	8.6	8.5
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	3,670	11,910	4,310	2,470	5,970
Dwelling stock	100,000	399,000	121,000	94,000	221,000
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	3.7	3.0	3.6	2.6	2.7
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	7.6	9.2	5.0	4.2	7.4
Total					
Number of vacants	45,730	170,840	86,300	59,040	80,940
Dwelling stock	1,126,000	2,989,000	2,189,000	1,842,000	2,250,000
Vacants as a percentage of stock	4.1	4.3	3.9	3.2	3.6
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

	East	London	South East	South West	England
Local authority					
Number of vacants	4,210	8,950	3,040	2,260	57,540
Dwelling stock	226,000	483,000	206,000	140,000	2,335,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.6	2.5
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	6.4	10.3	3.1	3.6	8.1
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	2,090	6,810	4,020	2,350	43,290
Dwelling stock	153,000	291,000	250,000	150,000	1,702,000
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.5	2.5
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	3.2	7.9	4.1	3.9	6.1
Total					
Number of vacants	65,670	86,730	97,890	59,840	710,940
Dwelling stock	2,367,000	3,146,000	3,671,000	2,247,000	21,636,000
Vacants as a percentage of stock	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.7	3.3
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

2007

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands
Local authority					
Number of vacants	5,210	7,740	7,320	4,990	5,930
Dwelling stock	170,000	267,000	273,000	214,000	232,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.3%	2.5%
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	11.0	5.8	8.5	7.9	6.5
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	3,590	9,500	4,240	1,540	5,110
Dwelling stock	116,000	322,000	161,000	94,000	220,000
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	3.1	3.0	2.6	1.6	2.3
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	7.5	7.2	4.9	2.4	6.6
Total					
Number of vacants	47,570	132,440	85,660	63,200	77,590
Dwelling stock	1,131,000	3,007,000	2,392,000	1,860,000	2,274,000
Vacants as a percentage of stock	4.2	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.4
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

	East	London	South East	South West	England
Local authority					
Number of vacants	3,430	9,620	3,210	2,040	48,590
Dwelling stock	206,000	468,000	199,000	136,000	2,166,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.5	2.2
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	5.1	11.2	3.2	3.2	6.7

	East	London	South East	South West	England
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	1,530	5,140	2,910	1,490	35,050
Dwelling stock	171,000	294,000	261,000	161,000	1,802,000
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	0.9	1.7	1.1	0.9	1.9
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	2.3	6.0	2.9	2.3	4.8
Total					
Number of vacants	66,780	85,550	100,440	64,160	723,190
Dwelling stock	2,589,000	3,168,000	3,503,000	2,279,000	21,805,000
Vacants as a percentage of stock	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.8	3.3
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

2008

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands
Local authority					
Number of vacants	4,540	6,300	6,140	4,790	3,920
Dwelling stock	163,000	241,000	265,000	211,000	222,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.8
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	9.0	4.6	6.8	6.5	4.9
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	3,240	7,950	2,880	1,240	4,590
Dwelling stock	114,000	337,000	162,000	94,000	215,000
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	2.8	2.4	1.8	1.3	2.0
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	6.7	5.8	3.2	1.9	5.7
Total					
Number of vacants	48,290	136,780	90,950	63,560	79,210
Dwelling stock	1,137,000	3,027,000	2,258,000	1,880,000	2,293,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	4.2	4.5	4.1	3.3	3.5
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

	East	London	South East	South West	England
Local authority					
Number of vacants	3,330	10,110	3,780	1,890	42,870
Dwelling stock	196,000	457,000	265,000	129,000	2,066,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.5	2.1
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	4.5	11.7	3.7	2.7	5.7
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	1,870	4,410	2,470	1,370	36,170
Dwelling stock	181,000	300,000	262,000	167,000	1,842,000
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	1.0	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.0

	East	London	South East	South West	England
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	2.7	5.1	2.4	2.3	4.0
Total					
Number of vacants	68,480	86,700	102,810	69,440	748,160
Dwelling stock	2,414,000	3,192,000	3,536,000	2,292,000	21,990,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	2.8	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.4
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

2007

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands
Local authority					
Number of vacants	6,510	6,440	5,780	3,960	3,210
Dwelling stock	150,000	207,000	248,000	209,000	218,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	2.8	3.1	2.3	1.9	1.5
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	9.0	4.6	5.7	5.7	4.0
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	5,130	7,820	3,670	990	4,530
Dwelling stock	118,000	355,000	174,000	92,000	222,000
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	2.7	2.2	2.1	1.1	2.0
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	6.9	5.5	3.6	1.4	5.6
Total					
Number of vacants	68,500	141,190	101,090	70,000	80,400
Dwelling stock	1,340,000	3,050,000	2,237,000	1,902,000	2,309,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	4.2	4.6	4.5	3.7	3.5
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

	East	London	South East	South West	England
Local authority					
Number of vacants	2,500	9,850	3,080	1,850	40,960
Dwelling stock	180,000	451,000	193,000	120,000	1,907,000
LA vacants as a % of LA stock	1.3	2.2	1.6	1.5	2.1
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	3.6	11.6	3.0	2.8	5.4
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	1,770	4,650	2,600	1,610	20,770
Dwelling stock	100,000	295,000	269,000	173,000	1,886,000
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	0.9	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.6
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	2.6	5.5	2.6	2.4	4.0
Total					
Number of vacants	68,130	84,630	101,810	66,920	763,320
Dwelling stock	2,430,000	3,220,000	3,571,000	2,317,000	22,189,000
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.4

	East	London	South East	South West	England
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

2008

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands
Local authority					
Number of vacants	3,030	4,920	5,920	3,320	4,120
Dwelling stock[1]	139,643	180,586	242,854	193,809	213,159
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	2.2	2.7	2.4	1.7	1.9
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	6.0	3.6	5.8	4.3	5.2
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	3,170	7,160	3,190	1,300	3,360
Dwelling stock[1]	133,773	402,384	170,000	116,231	235,290
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.1	1.4
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	6.3	5.2	3.1	1.7	4.2
Total					
Number of vacants	50,620	137,850	102,240	76,960	79,850
Dwelling stock[1]	1,167,480	3,111,257	2,278,877	1,923,438	2,334,315
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.0	3.4
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

	East	London	South East	South West	England
Local authority					
Number of vacants	2,110	9,500	2,630	1,400	36,940
Dwelling stock[1]	164,316	435,542	182,743	117,633	1,870,365
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	1.3	2.2	1.4	1.2	2.0
LA vacants as a percentage of total vacants	2.8	11.1	2.5	2.0	4.7
Registered social landlords					
Number of vacants	1,860	4,930	2,570	1,720	29,240
Dwelling stock[1]	223,273	351,983	311,937	189,426	2,142,297
RSL vacants as a percentage of RSL stock	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.9	1.4
RSL vacants as a percentage of total vacants	2.5	5.7	2.4	2.4	3.7
Total					
Number of vacants	75,200	85,920	105,110	70,270	784,020
Dwelling stock[1]	2,464,469	3,281,034	3,603,644	2,329,343	22,493,857
LA vacants as a percentage of LA stock	3.1	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.5
Vacants as a percentage of total vacants	100	100	100	100	100

[1] Provisional

Source:

Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTBR and CTBRS) returns from local authorities, Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities, Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant dwellings in each region were *(a)* local authority-owned, *(b)* registered social landlord-owned and *(c)* privately-owned in each of the last five years. [275577]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today, *Official Report*, (PQs 273763 and 273896).

HomeBuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what percentage of the MyChoice HomeBuy budget for each region for 2010-11 has been allocated; and if she will make a statement; [273569]

(2) what funding was allocated to MyChoice Homebuy in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much has been spent from each year's allocation; [276740]

(3) how many allocations of funding were provided by MyChoice Homebuy for 2009-10; and how many have so far been taken up; [276741]

(4) how much funding is available for the MyChoice Homebuy scheme in 2010-11; and if she will make a statement; [276742]

(5) what assessment she has made of whether to reallocate funds from one Homebuy scheme to another; [276743]

(6) whether she plans to redistribute MyChoice Homebuy funding to reflect demand for the scheme in each region; and if she will make a statement; [276744]

(7) how many Homebuy agents had stopped accepting new applications for the MyChoice Homebuy scheme by 18 May 2009; [276745]

(8) how many Homebuy agents were accepting applications for the MyChoice Homebuy scheme on 18 May 2009. [276747]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answers he was given on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 218W, and on 18 May, *Official Report*, columns1194-5W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were available under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy schemes in each region in each of the last six months. [276384]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 19 May 2009]*: We do not hold centrally the number of homes available for Open Market HomeBuy, in each region in each of the last six months. The scheme enables purchasers to buy any property on the open market with the help of an equity loan. Ownhome and My Choice HomeBuy are subsets of Open Market HomeBuy.

Again for HomeBuy Direct we do not centrally collect the number of homes available to purchase by region.

On the First Time Buyers' Initiative, the following table shows the number of homes available in each month. These figures do not include homes that were purchased "off plan".

	November	December	January	February	March	April
East of England	73	82	91	104	120	94
East Midlands	105	107	107	113	113	121
London	117	132	150	156	174	196
North East	97	97	100	101	103	101
North West	145	159	169	177	182	187
South East	97	103	115	121	124	146
South West	79	82	91	100	105	125
West Midlands	28	34	45	50	53	57
Yorkshire and Humberside	34	35	37	37	37	37
Total	775	831	905	959	1,011	1,066

The number of completed homes each month for NewBuild HomeBuy has been provided in the following table. In each month there are likely to be more homes available than just those newly completed, as some homes can take a few months to sell and others come back on the market as occupants change.

New Build HomeBuy

	November	December	January	February	March	April
East Midlands	102	54	17	27	126	0
East of England	85	79	78	17	439	6
London	151	413	13	158	794	96
North East	5	12	20	48	43	0
North West	2	34	2	27	240	0
South East	97	313	150	177	690	0
South West	84	117	56	59	326	7
West Midlands	39	80	34	100	284	14

New Build HomeBuy

	November	December	January	February	March	April
Yorkshire and Humberside	24	27	43	30	27	3
Total	545	1,129	413	632	2,849	126

For Rent to HomeBuy the following table shows the number of completions in each month by region. In each month there are likely to be more homes available than just those newly completed, as some homes can take a short time to rent.

Rent to HomeBuy

	November	December	January	February	March	April*
East Midlands	0	13	0	0	285	0
East of England	0	0	6	0	94	0
London	0	0	0	0	232	63
North East	4	0	0	0	0	0
North West	0	4	0	0	132	0
South East	24	12	0	0	78	0
South West	0	0	0	0	89	0
West Midlands	0	0	4	27	17	0
Yorkshire and Humberside	0	17	0	0	45	0
Total	28	46	10	27	972	63

We do not hold centrally data on the number of properties on which Social HomeBuy is offered by landlords participating in the scheme.

HomeBuy Scheme: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy in each region in each of the last three years. [273898]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the spend through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme for Open Market HomeBuy which includes on OwnHome and MyChoice HomeBuy; New Build HomeBuy; First Time Buyers Initiative; Social HomeBuy; and Rent to HomeBuy in each region in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. Figures for 2008-09 are provisional.

£ million

Product	Open market HomeBuy	Of which OwnHome	Of which MyChoice HomeBuy	New Build HomeBuy	First Time Buyers Initiative	Social HomeBuy	Rent to HomeBuy
2006-07							
North East	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.13	1.93	0.02	0.00
North West	1.84	0.00	0.00	18.38	4.19	0.04	0.00
Yorkshire and Humberside	0.94	0.00	0.00	9.56	5.29	0.11	0.00
East Midlands	1.36	0.00	0.00	16.76	0.00	0.03	0.00
West Midlands	3.33	0.00	0.00	16.97	8.27	0.00	0.00
Eastern	8.61	0.00	0.00	18.50	7.76	0.00	0.00
London	64.63	0.00	0.00	167.03	13.43	0.31	0.00
South East	26.96	0.00	0.00	56.23	31.22	0.03	0.00
South West	2.62	0.00	0.00	13.95	13.85	0.00	0.00
Total	89.48	0.00	0.00	326.69	87.93	0.54	0.00
2007-08							
North East	0.20	0.00	0.00	2.23	4.65	0.06	0.00
North West	3.81	0.00	0.00	16.85	8.78	0.32	0.00
Yorkshire and Humberside	2.28	0.00	0.00	11.03	2.31	0.06	0.00
East Midlands	1.30	0.00	0.00	20.85	9.57	0.02	0.00
West Midlands	2.58	0.00	0.00	20.35	2.00	0.05	0.00
Eastern	12.03	0.00	0.00	24.44	7.16	0.05	0.00
London	28.52	0.00	0.00	141.26	36.40	1.06	0.00
South East	27.48	0.00	0.00	59.00	11.74	0.27	0.00

£ million

Product	Open market HomeBuy	Of which: OwnHome	Of which: MyChoice HomeBuy	New Build HomeBuy	First Time Buyers Initiative	Social HomeBuy	Rent to HomeBuy
South West	7.05	0.00	0.00	20.96	9.03	0.02	0.00
Total	78.87	0.00	0.00	316.96	89.63	1.91	0.00
2008-09							
North East	0.63	0.19	0.29	1.70	1.29	0.20	0.65
North West	5.69	1.23	2.24	8.32	5.57	0.01	7.74
Yorkshire and Humberside	7.20	1.14	2.74	3.46	1.94	0.06	4.44
East Midlands	5.94	0.89	2.03	1.09	1.15	0.00	9.44
West Midlands	9.93	1.49	3.97	17.33	2.90	0.09	4.71
Eastern	32.05	2.21	11.73	15.43	5.02	0.03	9.32
London	69.13	5.60	52.26	93.91	6.31	0.46	42.04
South East	57.40	5.76	31.29	35.67	7.00	0.12	4.91
South West	19.27	3.68	8.85	11.43	3.39	0.00	4.58
Total	207.24	22.18	115.40	188.34	34.56	0.97	87.83

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency.

OwnHome and MyChoice HomeBuy are subsets of the Open Market HomeBuy scheme and did not commence until 2008-09. Rent to HomeBuy was also introduced in 2008-09.

There has been no spend on HomeBuy Direct in any of these years as the scheme was only introduced towards the end of 2008-09.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been provided to the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* First Time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each region in each of the last three years. [273899]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the approved allocations through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme for Open Market HomeBuy which includes that on OwnHome and MyChoice HomeBuy; New Build HomeBuy; First Time Buyers Initiative; Social HomeBuy; and Rent to HomeBuy in each region in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. Figures for 2008-09 are provisional.

£ million

Product	Open market HomeBuy	Of which: OwnHome	Of which: MyChoice HomeBuy	New Build HomeBuy	First Time Buyers Initiative	Social HomeBuy	Rent to HomeBuy
2006-07							
North East	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.87	1.93	0.02	0.00
North West	1.70	0.00	0.00	29.53	6.69	0.04	0.00
Yorkshire and Humberside	0.94	0.00	0.00	14.48	6.57	0.11	0.00
East Midlands	1.12	0.00	0.00	22.98	0.00	0.03	0.00
West Midlands	2.77	U00	0.00	23.39	10.94	0.01	0.00
Eastern	8.32	0.00	0.00	24.31	7.76	0.00	0.00
London	33.37	0.00	0.00	202.67	15.88	0.31	0.00
South East	26.85	0.00	0.00	64.00	36.02	0.03	0.00
South West	2.05	0.00	0.00	18.80	15.47	0.00	0.00
Total	77.11	0.00	0.00	403.23	101.26	0.55	0.00
2007-08							
North East	0.20	0.00	0.00	2.38	5.05	0.06	0.00
North West	3.81	0.00	0.00	17.47	15.56	0.32	0.00
Yorkshire and Humberside	2.28	0.00	0.00	12.69	1.06	0.06	0.00
East Midlands	1.30	0.00	0.00	22.05	9.69	0.02	0.00
West Midlands	2.56	0.00	0.00	20.14	0.98	0.04	0.00
Eastern	12.60	0.00	0.00	27.39	9.37	0.03	0.00
London	21.78	0.00	0.00	176.67	39.14	1.09	0.00
South East	28.00	0.00	0.00	69.73	21.94	0.27	0.00
South West	7.21	0.00	0.00	24.72	9.89	0.02	0.00
Total	79.75	0.00	0.00	373.24	112.68	1.93	0.00
2008-09							
North East	0.63	0.29	0.19	2.80	1.75	0.06	0.99

£ million

Product	Open market HomeBuy	Of which: OwnHome	Of which: MyChoice HomeBuy	New Build HomeBuy	First Time Buyers Initiative	Social HomeBuy	Rent to HomeBuy
North West	5.69	2.24	1.23	12.65	3.55	0.20	9.31
Yorkshire and Humberside	7.20	2.74	1.14	2.34	1.97	0.01	5.72
East Midlands	5.96	2.03	0.91	9.97	1.18	0.00	11.58
West Midlands	10.00	3.97	1.57	16.92	5.80	0.09	6.18
Eastern	32.08	11.82	2.17	17.25	7.26	0.03	14.46
London	68.81	52.10	5.49	92.30	10.91	0.43	61.51
South East	59.38	33.19	6.09	36.93	1.41	0.12	7.06
South West	19.27	8.96	3.77	12.08	3.00	0.00	6.71
Total	209.04	117.34	22.55	203.24	36.83	0.95	123.53

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency.

OwnHome and MyChoice HomeBuy are subsets of the Open Market HomeBuy scheme and did not commence until 2008-09. Rent to HomeBuy was also introduced in 2008-09.

There were no approved allocations on HomeBuy Direct in any of these years as the scheme was only introduced towards the end of 2008-09.

Homes and Communities Agency: Contracts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 131W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: Finance, (1) for what reason the Homes and Communities Agency let each of the six contracts identified by single tender; which organisation received each contract; and what the purpose of each contract was; [274880]

(2) for what reason the Academy for Sustainable Communities let each of the five contracts identified by single tender; which organisation received each contract; and what the purpose of each contract was. [274881]

Margaret Beckett: Pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 131W, the contracts entered into by the Homes and Communities Agency on a single tender basis were as follows:

Organisation contracted	Purpose of contract	Reason given for single tender action
Terry Farrell and Partners	Specialist advice to the Chief Executive of the Homes and Communities Agency	Recognised provider of specialist advice (unique provider)
KPMG	Specialist advice on developing a new delegations framework	This contract had previously been let by competitive tender under the Department for Work and Pensions framework. This new time-limited appointment was made to extend this contract pending a competitive process under the HM Treasury framework
Sheffield Hallam University	HCA Academy provision and completion of foundation degree	Time limited extension of arrangement previously competitively procured but with no option to extend (unique provider and IPR issues)
Dr. Simon Bell	HCA Academy provision of modular training	Time limited extension of arrangement previously competitively procured but with no option to extend (unique provider)
John Langford	Executive management coaching and support	Services required to facilitate a number of workshops with the new Executive Management team of the recently established Agency. Appointed on an interim basis in order to ensure timely delivery. A subsequent competitive procurement process has been undertaken. At the time of writing no appointment has been made

Pursuant to the same answer of 5 May 2009, the contracts let by the Academy for Sustainable Communities on a single tender basis were as follows:

Organisation contracted	Purpose of contract	Business justification given for single tender action
Glasgows Group	Organisation of regional masterclass	A contractor was required at short notice. Glasgows had previously been through two competitive tenders for similar jobs winning both
JSA Regeneration Ltd.	Organisation of online workshops—"In A Nutshell"	Time limited extension of arrangement previously competitively procured but with no option to extend (unique provider)

Organisation contracted	Purpose of contract	Business justification given for single tender action
Billings Enterprises Ltd.	Appointment of an advisor to the Academy Board	The supplier had previous experience and had demonstrated expertise in working in this area (with Communities and Local Government)
Dean Knight Partnership	Cover for Learning and Skills Manager Post	Following a national recruitment exercise the Academy was unable to recruit to this fixed term post. The transition to HCA also put the post at risk of contractual delays. The consultant concerned has previous knowledge of the Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC) and could fill the role until the ASC could recruit under HCA on a permanent basis
IBP Academy	To run the "Raising Our Game" programme in the short term	ASC took over the programme from the North West Development Agency. Award of this contract allowed for the programme to continue in the short term until a commissioned options appraisal could take place on a delivery model for the future

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 130W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: finance, for what reason the Housing Corporation made a termination payment to *(a)* the administrator of Elonex plc and *(b)* the contractor. [274797]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation (HC) paid a total of £39,697.64 as an out of court settlement to the administrators of Elonex following the earlier termination of that contract due to a material breach in that contract arising from poor service delivery. Since this was a payment to a supplier that gave no tangible benefit to the HC it was declared as a loss/special payment.

The HC paid a total of £11,162 to terminate the contract. The reasons for the termination are commercial in confidence. Since the contractor did not work their notice, the HC did not receive any benefit from this payment. It was, therefore, declared as a loss/special payment.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the Housing Revenue Account review; and when the expected consultation paper will be issued. [276521]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect the Review of Council Housing Finance to report to the Chief Secretary and to the Minister for Housing and Planning early in the summer. Consultation will follow thereafter.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which Government Office regions the Homes and Communities Agency reached 80 per cent. of its start of year targets for *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions for 2008-09. [270120]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 913W.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 217-18W, on the HomeBuy scheme, how many transactions under her Department's HomeBuy Direct scheme have been completed. [274188]

Margaret Beckett: To the end of April 2009, three transactions had been fully completed under the HomeBuy Direct scheme. However, a number of participating developers are reporting high levels of pre-registrations for their HomeBuy Direct properties.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to her Department of the *(a)* Homebuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy schemes has been since the beginning of financial year 2009-10. [275570]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows provisional expenditure by the Homes and Communities Agency on each of the categories listed.

	Spend in April 2009[1] (£ million)
Homebuy Direct	0.07
New Build Homebuy	0.64
Rent to Homebuy	5.53
Open Market Homebuy	7.07
Of which:	
MyChoice Homebuy	5.94
Of which:	
OwnHome	0.52
Social Homebuy	0.01
First Time Buyers Initiative	1.05

[1] Provisional

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

The figure shown for Open Market HomeBuy is the total for that product. The sums for MyChoice HomeBuy and OwnHome are subsets of this total.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of

8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 448-49W, on housing: low incomes, how many New Build Homebuy properties were vacant at the latest date for which figures are available; [276923]

(2) how many low-cost home ownership homes in each Government Office region have not yet been sold. [277020]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1004W.

A regional breakdown of the figures is not available.

Local Development Frameworks

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local planning authorities in England have in place an up-to-date local development framework. [276571]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Local Development Framework is a suite of development plan documents (DPDs) which should have regard to a 15-year time horizon and can evolve over time and respond to changing circumstances. This means that there is no definition of what constitutes up-to-date.

However, since the introduction of local development frameworks in 2004, the Planning Inspectorate who independently examine all DPDs have found 112 DPDs sound, including 43 core strategies. Between 2000 and 2007, 109 local authorities adopted old-style plans. All local planning authorities, including those with sound core strategies, can continue to use saved policies from old-style plans as part of their statutory development plan until such time as they are superseded by one of the suite of documents within the Local Development Framework.

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans she has *(a)* to bring into force and *(b)* to make regulations under Part 6 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; [276757]

(2) when she plans to publish the summary of responses to the consultation, Real People, Real Power: The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws, which closed on 20 November 2008. [276758]

John Healey: As indicated in our final Local Government Implementation Plan, published on 19 March 2009, we intend to have secondary legislation, made under Part 6 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, implementing our proposals on byelaws, in place by summer 2009.

Prior to making any such legislation, we will publish a summary of responses to the consultation exercise.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition the Planning Inspectorate will use of householder development for the purposes of the expedited procedure for household appeals. [276967]

Mr. Iain Wright: "Householder development" means:

(a) an application for planning permission for development of an existing dwelling house, or development within the curtilage of such a dwelling house for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house, or

(b) an application for any consent, agreement or approval required by or under a planning permission, development order or local development order in relation to such development but does not include:

(i) an application for change of use, or

(ii) an application to change the number of dwellings in a building.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Householder Appeals Service will receive representations from those who objected to a planning application which is the subject of an appeal. [276968]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Householder Appeals Service will continue to receive all representations made at the planning application stage from those who objected. However, there is no longer a specific stage during the appeal where those who objected at the planning application stage can then make further representations.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Householder Appeals Service will consider applications to demolish a dwelling house and construct another building in its place. [276969]

Mr. Iain Wright: No, the demolition and replacement of a dwelling with another falls outside terms of what is 'Householder Development' and therefore as a result also falls outside the definition of the Householder Appeals Service.

Rent to HomeBuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* households are taking part in the Rent to HomeBuy scheme. [276143]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1357W, and on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 719-720W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme have been received; and if she will make a statement. [276144]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 719W.

Retail Trade: Planning

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of new retail development which was located in town centres in each of the last three years; and what information her Department holds on projected trends in the location of proposed retail development in the next three years. [276569]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest available estimates give the proportion of retail properties that existed on 1 April 2007 and were built in town centres and edge of town centre locations in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

The estimates are set out in the following table:

Year of build	*Percentage of retail floor space built in town centres plus edge of centre locations*
2004	41.9
2005	43.0
2006	42.1

The Department produces no statistics on trends for future years.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the revised approach to retail planning in local plans proposed by draft Planning Policy Statement 4 to be integrated into local development frameworks throughout England. [276570]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no set timetable for local planning authorities to take the final PPS 4 into account as they prepare and revise documents within their Local Development Frameworks. They will need to consider the extent to which emerging local development documents should have regard to the policies in the final PPS but they should not, in seeking to reflect new policies in plans, delay the plan-making process. However, before development plans can be reviewed to reflect the policy statement, the policies in the final PPS may be material, depending on the particular circumstances of the case, to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

Social Rented Housing: Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord dwellings there were in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [275875]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* A table showing the number of vacant local authority and registered social landlord dwellings and dwelling stock in each local authority area in each of the last three years has been placed in the Library of the House.

Tenant Services Authority: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 784W, on the Tenant Services Authority: publicity, with which stakeholders the authority engaged through the expenditure on public relations activities; and what the output was of each project funded by the expenditure on branding. [273456]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Tenant Services Authority's expenditure on public affairs consultancy funded APCO's consultancy to assist the TSA with the development of their strategy for engaging with stakeholders. No stakeholder engagement was undertaken in relation to this particular expenditure.

The TSAs expenditure on branding funded a single project to develop a new brand identity. The outputs included research via consultation with tenants and stakeholders and development of the brand identity covering everything related to the brand, including the TSA logo, publication styles and development of the TSA mission statement, exhibition signage and promotional items.

Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly: Costs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the residual costs of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly in 2009-10. [276734]

Mr. Iain Wright: There will be no residual costs for the Yorkshire and Humber regional assembly in 2009-10. The assembly ceased to exist on 31 March 2009. The assets of the assembly along with the majority of staff have transferred to successor bodies who will undertake the work previously undertaken by the assembly and as set out in the agreed Regional Business Plan funded by CLG.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which grants of more than £1,000 his Department has made to outside bodies in the last 12 months. [261052]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am arranging for a list of all grants made in the financial year 2008-09 to be placed in the House Libraries.

A breakdown of individual grant awards under the Listed Places of Worship and Memorial Grants Schemes could be provided only at disproportionate cost as grant claim records are held on separate databases. Expenditure on these schemes in 2008-09 amounted to £16,340,000 and payments in the year relate to eligible expenditure spanning several financial years.

Licensed Premises: Performing Arts

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the Sixth Report of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee of Session 2008-09, on the Licensing Act 2003, if he will take steps to make it easier for licensed premises to have live entertainment; and if he will make a statement. [276408]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We will look closely at the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's recommendations and respond formally in due course. However, it should be remembered that the Licensing Act 2003 has already made it easier for licensed premises to provide live entertainment by removing the need for a separate 'public entertainment licence', with its annual renewal exercise and widely variable fee levels. The Act also introduced a new, light touch system for small temporary events.

However, we recognise that some stakeholders, including those that gave evidence to the Select Committee, see opportunities for further liberalisation and we will continue to seek ways to reduce burdens as part of our commitment to better regulation.

Members: Correspondence

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter of 3 February 2009 from the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire on consultation on changes to the licensing regime for circuses; what plans he has to change the regime; and if he will make a statement. [276519]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As I have previously discussed with the hon. Member, a number of simplification measures we are pursuing in relation to the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act), such as the minor variation process which is currently before the other House, should benefit circuses which require permissions under the 2003 Act. In addition, I remain committed to looking at possible options for a portable licence for travelling circuses and I will write to the hon. Member very shortly, in response to his previous correspondence, to set out how I think we should progress this matter.

Wirral Library Service

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his timetable is for making a decision on the Wirral Library Service following receipt of the report of the Charteris Review into the service. [276055]

Barbara Follett: When the Secretary of State announced the Wirral Library Inquiry in April he said it would not be a "long, drawn-out affair", and the momentum has been maintained. The local inquiry, which has now been announced, will be convened at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton, on 9 June 2009 at 9.30 am. As lead on the inquiry, Sue Charteris will then write a formal report and submit it to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State's decision as to whether Wirral metropolitan borough council's plans are consistent with their statutory duties will follow as soon as he has had the opportunity to consider the evidence. DCMS will publish Sue Charteris's report at the same time.

OLYMPICS

Inspire Mark

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 393W, on the Inspire mark, which projects have been awarded the Inspire Mark; where each is located; and if she will make a statement. [272404]

Tessa Jowell: The Inspire Mark is awarded to high quality, non-commercial projects and programmes, which have been inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and deliver outcomes in sport, culture, volunteering, the environment, and promoting business opportunities. The following projects have been awarded the Mark to date.

Project name	*Lead organisation*	*Location by region or nation*
The Suffolk Challenge	Suffolk County Council	East
Bridging the Gap	North Hertfordshire College	East
Cambridge Festival of Ideas	University of Cambridge	East
Changing Places – Home Run	Peterborough City Council	East
East meets West	Essex County Council	East
Essex-Jiangsu Cultural Exchange	Essex County Council	East
Ideas Events	EEDA	East
Light Up East	Commissions East	East
NRE Annual Summit	EEDA	East
Synergy: The Whitlingham Outdoor Festival	Norfolk County Council	East
Team Essex Ambassadors Awards	Essex County Council	East
Village green (Party in the Park)	Metal	East
ONE 8 (One Nation for Everyone 2008)	Renaissance East Midlands	East Midlands
The Lyric Lounge	2Funky Arts Ltd.	East Midlands
Walking and Cycling leaflet and poster campaign	Department for Transport	England
Enterprise of London 2012 Games	British Olympic Foundation	England
Free Swimming	DCMS	England
Young Ambassadors	DCMS	England
Time to Get Active	Scope	England/Wales
5- Young Music into London	The Office of the 5 Host Boroughs	London
AfroReggae UK Partnership	Barbican Centre	London
Animation Decathlon	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	London
Boundless	London Borough of Southwark	London
CREATE 09	The Office of the 5 Host Boroughs	London
Deloitte Ignite	Royal Opera House	London
Discover Young Hackney	Hackney Council	London
Festivals of Light	Discover	London
Getting Ready for the Games and Beyond	London Youth	London
Grand Union Youth Orchestra of East London	Grand Union	London

Project name	*Lead organisation*	*Location by region or nation*
Hackney Wick Festival	SPACE	London
Hip Hop Shakespeare Competition	The Hip-Hop Shakespeare Foundation	London
Imagination Our Nation	Kinetika	London
Inspiring Spaces	Greenwich Theatre	London
Jubilee Greenway Project	The Jubilee Walkway Trust	London
Literature and Stories	Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	London
London Mix	Watermans...	London
LSO On track	London Symphony Orchestra	London
Mapping the Change	Hackney Museum/Hackney Council	London
Newham Welcomes the World: Pass the Baton	New London Orchestra Ltd.	London
On the right track (Art Blanche)	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Adult Care Services	London
Once in a Lifetime	Pro-Active East London	London
Origins: A Festival of First Nations Theatre and Culture	Border Crossings Company Ltd.	London
Peer Volunteering Programme	St. John Ambulance	London
People's Record	Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	London
Personal Best London	LDA	London
Relay	LDA	London
Round One	The Roundhouse Trust	London
Sailing to Britain	Tara Arts Group Ltd.	London
Shape Artist commissions	Shape	London
Student Leadership	Specialist Schools and Academies Trust	London
Summer of Sport	LDA	London
The CREATE08 Art Award	5 Host Boroughs of Greenwich	London
The RHS Olympic Park Great British Garden Competition	Royal Horticultural Society	London
Trees for the Hosts	London Wildlife Trust	London
Various Voices 2009	Various Voices London Ltd.	London
West London Festival Finale 2008	West London Alliance	London
Beating T2D	Tees Valley Sport	North East
Personal Best NE	LSC	North East
Tackling Social Inclusion Issues in the North East England through Sport	Durham University on behalf of Sport Universities North East England (SUNEE)	North East
A Century of Olympic Posters—exhibition and supporting programme	Newcastle City Council for and on behalf of Tyne and Wear Museums	North East
Afro Reggae—Newcastle	Dance City	North East
Border Crossing	ISIS Arts Limited	North East
Children and Young People's Festival	Culture10	North East
Creative Spirits	Tyne & Wear Museums	North East
Seconds Out	Theatre Royal Newcastle	North East
AND—Festival of New Cinema and Digital Culture	FACT	North West
Lakes Alive	Kendal Arts International	North West
Neon Attractors	culture northwest	North West
Activ8	Sport Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland
Fighting Irishmen	Ulster American Folk Park	Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Primary Schools 5-star Disability Sports Challenge	Disability Sports NI	Northern Ireland
The Pied Piper	Ulster Orchestra Society Ltd.	Northern Ireland
Our Medway	Medway Council	South East
Personal Best SE	LSC	South East
COPOR	The University of Kent	South East
Driving Inspiration	Wycombe District Council	South East
Lap of Honour	Suffolk Artlink	South East
Our Sporting Life	Sports Heritage Network	South East
Pulse	Future Creative CIC	South East
Rings Around the World	Henley Festival	South East
The Emergence of Consciousness	University of Sussex	South East
Anti-Bodies: Beyond the Body Ideal	Relational	South West
B-Side (The Seaside)	Weymouth College	South West
Connections	The Sherborne House Trust	South West
No Man is an Island Projects	No Man is an Island Projects and Exhibitions	South West
Quest Gloucestershire—River Severn Project	Gloucestershire County Council	South West

Project name	Lead organisation	Location by region or nation
The Bristol Do	Bristol City Council	South West
Universal Value	Labculture Ltd.	South West
World Dance Day Devon/Open Day	Dance in Devon	South West
Bristol Festival of School Sport and Culture	University of Bristol	South West
Personal Best South West	LSC	South West
Fit for 2012 (name TBC)	Department of Health	UK
Generation 2012	The Open University	UK
International Schools Linking Project for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games	British Council	UK
Joining the Game	LSIS	UK
Lloyds TSB National Schools Sport Week	Youth Sport Trust	UK
Make Your Mark Challenge	Enterprise Insight	UK
Positive Impact: Understanding BS8901	Positive Impact Events Ltd.	UK
Smallsteps4life	Food Standards Agency	UK
Street Champions	Street Games UK Ltd.	UK
The Nuffield STEM games	Nuffield Curriculum Centre	UK
Winning with Social Enterprise	Social Enterprise London	UK
All the World one smile	Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod	Wales
Criw Cymru	Wales Millennium Centre	Wales
Travelling Harpists	Cinetig	Wales
World Youth Skills Challenge	Denbighshire County Council	Wales
Extraordinary Cycles Project Launch Event	Coventry Transport Museum	West Midlands
Museums Keep Moving Cultural Olympiad Exhibition	Marches Curator's Group	West Midlands
The Digital Film and Media Event, Birmingham	Birmingham City Council	West Midlands
V&A's Century of Olympic Posters	Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust	West Midlands
Personal Best West Midlands	LSC	West Midlands
Carnegie Sporting Words Festival	Harrogate International Festivals	Yorkshire
Dancing with the Rhinos	Leeds City Council	Yorkshire
Night Lights	West Yorkshire Playhouse	Yorkshire

Note:
Scotland's Creative Programmer was not appointed until September 2008. However, Scotland is looking to have one of its four UK Legacy Trust projects awarded with the Inspire Mark, within the next two weeks, with another three following suit over the next 12 months.

Olympic Games 2012: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps her Office *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to ensure that local authorities in Essex share in benefits arising from the 2012 Olympic Games; what discussions her Office has had with local authorities in Essex on the matter; and if she will make a statement. [275612]

Tessa Jowell: We are fully committed to ensuring that everyone in the UK can be part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We aim to do this through cultural events across the country, more opportunities to take part in sport and to be physically active, and a range of volunteering, jobs and skills initiatives as well as business opportunities. The Legacy Action Plan which I published in June last year sets out more details on how we propose to deliver this vision.

I am also keen for regions to identify what is important to them. At a regional level this work is being taken forward by the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) who are working hard to optimise local benefits of the games. Additionally, the Local Government Association (which is represented on the group) is supporting local authorities across the UK in the lead up to the games.

Cllr Stephen Castle, who is the regional representative on NRG, chairs the Nations and Regions East (NRE) Board. This board has representation from each of the six county areas in the East of England and each county has a 2012 working group. In Essex a strategic board has been set up and is supported and led by Essex county council. The board is chaired by Gary Sullivan, also chair of the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership. The board has the full involvement and representation from both Thurrock and Southend unitary authorities and provides relevant and appropriate activity to maximise the benefits from 2012.

In March 2009 I was delighted to award Essex county council a Beacon Award for its work on Olympic and Paralympic Legacy. This award recognised the council's excellent efforts to use the opportunity of hosting the games to encourage local communities to be more active.

Furthermore, East of England will be experiencing first hand the excitement of the games as Hadleigh Farm in Essex will be hosting the mountain biking competition.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Ireland

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her objectives are for the legacy for Northern Ireland from the London 2012 Olympic Games. [276114]

Tessa Jowell: We are fully committed to ensuring that everyone in the UK can be part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We aim to do this through cultural events across the country, more

opportunities to take part in sport and to be physically active, and a range of volunteering, jobs and skills initiatives as well as business opportunities. The Legacy Action Plan which I published in June last year sets out our objectives and more details on how we propose to deliver this vision.

I am also keen for devolved Administrations to identify what is important to them. At a local level this work is being taken forward by the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) who are working hard to optimise the benefits of the games. The Northern Ireland interim NRG member is Hazel Campbell, Director of Sport, Museums and Recreation Division. A Northern Ireland Strategy for the games has been prepared to maximise the benefits of 2012. This can be found on the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) website:

http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/events_unit/2012_games.htm

DCAL is the lead Department for 2012 with responsibility for co-ordinating and facilitating the Northern Ireland Strategy in partnership with key stakeholders across the seven themes of sport, culture, volunteering, education, skills and employment, business and tourism.

Progress on legacy in Northern Ireland is already being made. 26 Olympic and eight Paralympic facilities from Northern Ireland are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide, including three in the Belfast South constituency itself: Olympia Leisure Centre, Queens University and the Mary Peters Track. Additionally, March 2009 saw the successful culmination of the Pied Piper project—the first in Northern Ireland to be awarded the prestigious Inspire Mark for cultural projects which align with the values and aims of London 2012.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fruit and Vegetables

8. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to encourage people to produce their own fruit and vegetables. [276582]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has provided £400,000 to support a campaign that promotes growing your own fruit and vegetables and eating seasonal produce. The campaign is being delivered by a coalition of businesses and civil organisations. The campaign website, Eat Seasonably, was launched on 29 March and features advice and events to help people grow their own food.

Food Labelling

9. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on country of origin food labelling. [276584]

10. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in discussions with the European Commission on proposed new rules on the labelling of food with its country of origin. [276585]

Jane Kennedy: A proposed Regulation on general food and nutrition labelling is being negotiated in Brussels. This proposal includes provisions on country of origin labelling.

The Government are keen to see clearer origin labelling rules and will be pressing this point as negotiations progress.

Compulsory Set-aside

11. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect of proposals for compulsory set-aside from September 2010 on existing environmental stewardship schemes for farmers. [276588]

Hilary Benn: The Government supported the abolition of set-aside in the CAP Health Check last year, but we wish to recapture the range of environmental benefits it provided. As part of our consultation on alternative approaches we published an impact assessment earlier this year, and the possible effect on existing Environmental Stewardship schemes is one of the factors we will consider in reaching a decision.

Bovine Tuberculosis

12. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to deal with tuberculosis infection in cattle in East Sussex. [276589]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA'S cattle testing and slaughter policy is the same in East Sussex as it is for the rest of England. It includes zero tolerance regime for overdue tests; pre-movement tests; the extended use of the gamma test; and encouraging good husbandry practice.

Waste

13. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the use of waste as a source of energy; and if he will make a statement. [276590]

Jane Kennedy: Waste wood, waste food and the biomass element of un-recyclable waste represent large untapped sources of renewable energy. Ways to encourage the recovery of renewable heat and power from this waste have featured in recent discussions between Ministers and officials from DEFRA, DECC and BERR in relation to reform of the Renewable Obligation Order (2009), led by BERR, and are continuing in relation to development of Feed-in Tariff's, a Renewable Heat Incentive and the Government's forthcoming Renewable Energy Strategy, led by DECC.

Marine Management Organisation

14. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [276591]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The necessary preparatory work is in hand to allow the MMO to be established by the earliest possible date, subject to the successful passage of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

Rural Economy

15. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on the rural economy. [276592]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government recognise that the economic downturn is having impacts in both urban and rural areas. Regular reports, received from the Commission for Rural Communities and Regional Development Agencies, continue to suggest that the impacts on rural areas are very similar to those in urban areas and, when compared to urban areas, the emerging picture in rural England is of lower risk, higher resilience and higher recovery prospects.

Animal Health

16. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress his Department has made in reducing risks to animal health. [276593]

Jane Kennedy: The health of animals is central to DEFRA's work of protecting livestock and controlling and eradicating disease.

We encourage good biosecurity, through the 'give disease the boot' campaign and carry out risk based post import testing to help prevent disease spreading.

DEFRA's animal health agency implements policies to prevent and manage outbreaks of serious animal diseases, thus supporting the farming industry, protecting the welfare of farmed animals and safeguarding public health from animal borne disease.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Country Land and Business Association, *(b)* National Farmers Union and *(c)* others on the proposal to implement a de minimis size holding for eligibility for payment of the 2010 Single Farm Payment; [275799]

(2) what discussions his Department has had on its proposals for implementing the de minimis size of holding for the payment of the 2010 Single Farm Payment. [275800]

Jane Kennedy: Under the terms of the EU CAP Health Check agreement, member states must implement a minimum claim size for direct payments, including those under the Single Payment Scheme, from 2010. Possible options to meet this requirement in England were discussed both during and subsequent to the Health Check agreement with stakeholder groups. Membership of those groups included the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association as well as other industry stakeholders such as the Tenant Farmers Association and environmental and consumer bodies. The options are now part of a consultation which was sent directly to over 100 organisations and is publicly available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/sps/index.htm

This consultation runs until 22 July.

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the take-up of anaerobic digestion will count towards the UK's recycling targets under the revised Waste Framework Directive. [275902]

Jane Kennedy: Article 11(3) of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) requires the European Commission to establish detailed rules on the application and calculation methods for verifying compliance with the directive's targets. The Commission has not yet established these rules. However, the Commission confirmed in its December 2008 Green Paper on biowaste management that anaerobic digestion may be classified as recycling when digestate is used on land for the production of growing media. The UK's response to the Green Paper asked the Commission to clarify whether all biowaste from households consigned to anaerobic digestion may be classified as recycling, where part of the output is biogas from which energy is recovered.

Anaerobic Digestion Task Group

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members of the Anaerobic Digestion Task Group are; and which organisations are represented in the group. [275791]

Jane Kennedy: Members of the Anaerobic Digestion Trade Group are appointed on a personal basis. The full list of members is given as follows:

Steve Lee (Chair), Chief Executive Officer, Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)

David Bellamy, Sustainability Manager, Food and Drink Federation (FDF)

Paul Bettison, Chair of Environment Board, Local Government Association (LGA)

Michael Chesshire, Technology Director, BiogenGreenfinch and Chair, Renewable Energy Association (REA) Biogas Group

Samantha Fuller, Waste to Energy Development Manager, Scottish and Southern Energy

Bob Gordon, Environment Policy Executive, British Retail Consortium (BRC)

Jim Haywood, Environment Director, Business in the Community (BITC)

Keith Riley, Managing Director-Technical Services Director, Veolia

David Sillett, Rural Development Manager, East of England Development Agency (EEDA)

Richard Swannell, Director of Retail and Organics Programmes, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)

Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK

Jeremy Tomkinson, Chief Executive, National Non-Food Crops Centre (NNFCC)

John Varley, Estate Director, Clinton Devon Estates

Michael Warhurst, Senior Campaigner, Resources and Waste, Friends of the Earth (FoE)

Owen Yeatman, Managing Director, Biogas Nord UK Ltd.

Animal Products: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether tallow used in production of leather is classified by his Department as a waste product. [276378]

Jane Kennedy: The handling and use of animal by-products including tallow is governed by Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 commonly referred to as the EU Animal By-products Regulation. Article 6 of the regulation sets out the uses of low-risk (category 3) material derived from animals slaughtered for human consumption. Only tallow that falls into category 3 may be used in the production of leather.

DEFRA does not classify substances as waste. Whether or not a substance is classified as waste within the meaning of Article 1(1)(a) of the Waste Framework Directive (2006/12/EC) must be determined on the facts of each case and the competent authorities such as the Environment Agency are responsible for the implementation of the directive's waste management controls.

Animal Welfare: Agriculture

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for offences relating to the welfare of farm animals have *(a)* been brought and *(b)* resulted in convictions in each of the last five years. [275945]

Jane Kennedy: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, and relevant parts of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

The Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968 was repealed by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which came into force on 6 April 2007.

It is not possible to separately identify from the Animal Welfare Act 2006, farm and non-farm animals.

Centralised records are not kept of prosecutions made under secondary legislation such as the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences

		Proceeded against					*Found guilty*				
Statute	*Offence description*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, Secs 1,26	Prevention of unnecessary pain and distress for livestock. Regulations relating to welfare of livestock. Powers of entry in connection with offences under this Act.	5	11	17	25	8	2	9	8	12	5
Animal Welfare Act 2006 S4(1) and 32(1)	Cause unnecessary suffering to a protected animal by an act/failure to act. Responsible person permit/ fail to take steps to prevent unnecessary suffering to animal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22
Animal Welfare Act 2006, S.9 and 32(2)	Fail to take all reasonable steps to ensure needs of animal for which they are responsible are met as required by good practice.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8

n/a = Not applicable

Notes:

1. These data are on the principal offence basis.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. The Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968 was repealed by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which came into force on 6 April 2007.

Source:

OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Animals: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential health threat to native British wildlife from the illegal importation of wildlife; and if he will make a statement. [275943]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA publishes an 'International Disease Monitoring Report' every month and where necessary produces 'Preliminary Outbreak Assessments (POA)' and 'Qualitative Risk Assessments (QRA)', which consider the likely effect of the disease outbreak on the UK. The QRA also assesses the likelihood of the disease entering the UK through the legal or illegal movement of animals affected by the disease in question.

The nature of illegal activity means that it is difficult to quantify the risk posed. That is why the UK has robustly enforced import requirements for pets and commercially traded animals.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has allocated to scientific research into the causes of and vaccination against bovine tuberculosis in 2009-10. [276586]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA has allocated £9.4 million to scientific research into the causes of, and vaccination against, bovine tuberculosis in 2009-10.

Compost: Mushrooms

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on odour emissions from the mushroom composting industry. [276587]

Jane Kennedy: I have received representations on the subject from my hon. Friend and also from Misson parish council.

Flood and Water Management Bill (Draft)

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable he has set for consideration of responses to the consultation on the draft Flood and Water Management Bill; and if he will make a statement. [276583]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We published the draft Bill on 21 April. The public consultation period closes on 24 July and we hope that the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee will be able to report on its pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill before the summer recess. The Government would then intend to respond to both exercises when the House returns in the autumn.

Food Supply

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had on the inclusion of proposals to address hunger and food scarcity in his Department's forthcoming White Paper on food security; [275827]

(2) what recent discussions he has had in relation to the inclusion of relief and social protection measures in his Department's forthcoming White Paper on food security. [275828]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has responsibility within Government for leading the development and delivery of policy on food production and supply across the UK, and works closely with DFID which leads on delivery of global food security. DFID is currently preparing a white paper on International Development—"Building our common future", and the Secretary of State has recently written to Douglas Alexander highlighting the importance of ensuring that food security and sustainable natural resource management are covered in it. DEFRA will also be producing an assessment of the UK's food security later this year and this will include some assessment of food security at the household level.

Grocery Trade: Competition

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the Competition Commission's proposal for an ombudsman to monitor and enforce compliance with a groceries supply code of practice. [276577]

Hilary Benn: The Competition Commission is seeking undertakings from the grocery retailers covered by the new Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) to establish an ombudsman to monitor and enforce compliance with the GSCOP. The deadline for replies to its consultation exercise is 28 May.

The creation of an ombudsman currently remains with the Competition Commission and no formal recommendation has been made to the Government. If the Competition Commission is unsuccessful in establishing the ombudsman within a reasonable period of time, the Competition Commission will formally return the matter to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for consideration.

Representatives of Sainsbury's and Waitrose have met DEFRA officials to give their view of the proposals. On the same basis the NFU has provided officials with a paper from Cardiff Business School, and Asda and the Association of Convenience Stores have provided their views by correspondence.

Recycling: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was recycled in each London local authority area *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per head of the population in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2007-08. [276211]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows, for each local authority in London for the financial years 2005-06 and 2007-08, municipal waste sent for recycling, composting and reuse as both tonnages and quantity generated per person per year in kilogrammes.

	Tonnes of municipal waste collected for recycling, composting and reuse		Municipal waste collected for recycling, composting and reuse per person per year (kg)	
	2005-06	2007-08	2005-06	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham LB	7,158	21,788	44	131
Barnet LB	39,564	46,271	120	140
Bexley LB	45,808	48,976	208	221
Brent LB	23,553	24,529	87	91
Bromley LB	41,228	49,580	137	165
Camden LB	20,783	22,625	92	98
City of London	1,000	3,300	109	413
Croydon LB	31,800	43,666	93	129
Ealing LB	28,506	34,351	94	113
Enfield LB	32,631	36,825	116	129
Greenwich LB	23,220	32,152	102	144
Hackney LB	12,501	19,173	60	91
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	13,031	16,623	72	96
Haringey LB	16,172	24,969	72	111
Harrow LB	27,658	39,328	129	183
Havering LB	10,423	29,967	46	131
Hillingdon LB	34,055	41,041	135	164
Hounslow LB	24,585	23,797	116	108
Islington LB	14,944	21,369	82	114
Lambeth LB	20,562	23,529	76	86
Lewisham LB	14,361	26,567	58	103
Merton LB	17,741	22,758	91	114
Newham LB	6,119	20,490	25	82
Redbridge LB	12,181	25,003	48	98
Richmond upon Thames LB	29,585	35,719	159	198
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	13,610	19,532	69	109
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	28,696	17,959	188	114
Southwark LB	18,206	26,071	71	95
Sutton LB	27,041	26,711	152	144
Tower Hamlets LB	7,192	12,322	34	57
Waltham Forest LB	22,659	33,214	101	149
Wandsworth LB	21,403	26,290	76	93
Westminster City Council	17,204	21,473	70	92

Note:
For 2005-06, ONS mid year population figures 2005 have been used and for 2007-08 ONS mid year population figures 2007 have been used.
Source:
WasteDataFlow

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption: Greater London

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have received Government funding for adoption target levels in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available; and how much Government funding was granted in each such year. [274811]

Beverley Hughes: A total of £970,547.40 has been claimed to date against the three year local public sector agreement (LPSA) adoption targets agreed by the then Department for Education and Skills and local authorities that ended in 2007-08. Since LPSA Performance Reward Grant (PRG) is claimed and paid in two instalments, to date half of this amount has been paid, with the remainder due in 2009-10.

Local authority	Total PRG paid (£)
East Riding of York	328,409.38
Hammersmith and Fulham	489,810.42
Lewisham	152,327.60
Total	970,547.40

For funding prior to 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1702W.

Children: Care homes

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on provision of welfare beds in secure children's homes of the decision of the Youth Justice Board to reduce the number of justice beds in such homes. [274995]

Beverley Hughes: It is the responsibility of local authorities to assess the need for, and availability of, welfare beds in secure children's homes as part of their duty to ensure that there is sufficient children's home provision. Local authorities can obtain support in this role from the DCSF Commissioning Support Programme which will offer Children's Trusts bespoke support based on their needs and focus on key areas of concern.

It is likely that following the Youth Justice Board's decision some homes may decide to close. However, the effect on the overall provision of welfare beds will depend upon the decisions made by the providers of the remaining homes about the number of welfare beds they wish to provide, taking into account likely demand

from local authorities. DCSF is working closely with the YJB and the providers of the homes to monitor future developments and the YJB has made funding available to support those homes who lost contracts to help them develop sustainable provision of welfare beds.

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many out-of-school and holiday play scheme places were available for children aged *(a)* four and under, *(b)* five to 11 and *(c)* 11 years and over in each London local authority in: (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007-08. [276182]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available specifically for the age groups requested. Available information on children aged under eight is shown in the following table.

Number[1] of registered out of school and holiday scheme child care places for children under eight years of age: Position at 31 March each year

	Out of school clubs		Holiday schemes	
Local authority area	*1997[2]*	*2008[3]*	*1997[2]*	*2008[3,4]*
Inner London				
Camden	[5]—	1,800	[5]—	[6]—
City of London	70	100	70	[6]—
Hackney	1,100	2,700	2,300	[6]—
Hammersmith and Fulham	[5]—	800	[5]—	[6]—
Haringey	200	1,800	1,300	[6]—
Islington	1,100	1,600	1,500	[6]—
Kensington and Chelsea	700	1,500	3,100	[6]—
Lambeth	[5]—	2,100	[5]—	[6]—
Lewisham	1,000	2,200	1,000	[6]—
Newham	200	1,500	1,200	[6]—
Southwark	2,100	4,100	2,300	[6]—
Tower Hamlets	[5]—	1,600	[5]—	[6]—
Wandsworth	1,000	3,500	3,500	[6]—
Westminster	700	1,000	3,000	[6]—
Outer London				
Barking and Dagenham	200	800	1,200	[6]—
Barnet	300	2,500	2,900	[6]—
Bexley	200	1,000	500	[6]—
Brent	300	1,400	[5]—	[6]—
Bromley	300	2,400	1,100	[6]—
Croydon	700	3,500	700	[6]—
Ealing	500	2,200	400	[6]—
Enfield	300	2,000	700	[6]—
Greenwich	200	2,800	200	[6]—
Harrow	200	1,500	1,100	[6]—
Havering	300	1,100	400	[6]—
Hillingdon	100	1,300	1,100	[6]—
Hounslow	600	1,300	2,200	[6]—
Kingston upon Thames	300	1,500	2,300	[6]—
Merton	300	1,900	3,500	[6]—
Redbridge	200	1,600	2,300	[6]—
Richmond Upon Thames	400	1,800	4,900	[6]—
Sutton	100	1,400	800	[6]—
Waltham Forest	[5]—	2,300	[5]—	[6]—

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Children's Daycare Facilities Survey
[3] Data Source: Ofsted
[4] Ofsted do not collect information on holiday scheme childcare places.
[5] Data not available.
[6] Data not collected.

Children: Expenditure

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what pilot schemes his Department has initiated to assist families with children in each year since 2001; what the cost was of each such scheme; how many families were involved in each such scheme; what evaluation was undertaken in respect of each such scheme; and if he will make a statement. [276431]

Beverley Hughes: We have undertaken a wide range of pilots since 2001 which have added considerably to our understanding of what works to improve outcomes for families and children. The key pilots targeted specifically at families are listed in the following table.

Name of pilot	Period it ran for	Total spent or committed for pilot period	Number of families benefiting	Where the evaluation is published
Parent support adviser pilot	September 2006 to August 2008 in 20 LAs.	£40 million	20,000+ parents were formally recorded as working with a PSA.	Interim reports were published in 2007 and 2008, (access reports here). The final evaluation report will be published summer 2009.
Family pathfinder	May 2008 until March 2011	£16 million	To develop and test the think family approach in 15 areas, ensuring that adult and children's services work together more effectively in supporting families with complex needs, and testing the approach in supporting young carers to prevent them taking on inappropriate caring roles.	Evaluation currently being carried out by York consulting. Final evaluation due to be published spring 2011.
Parenting early intervention pathfinder	September 2006 to March 2008	£10 million	425 courses involving 3,575 parents of children and young people (aged 8-13 years old) at risk of poor outcomes.	Evaluation report can be accessed here
Family intervention projects	53 projects set up over January 2006 to March 2008; now being rolled out to all local authorities.	£15 million	1,195 families most at risk of anti-social behaviour supported January 2006 to March 2008.	Report published in December 2007 on DCSF website.
Child poverty family intervention projects	Ongoing October 2008 to March 2011.	£12.5 million	Testing the family intervention project model with a wider range of families where there are significant barriers to work such as substance misuse and domestic violence.	Evaluation just started, plans for publishing still to be finalised.
Netmums parent support advisers	February 2008 to June 2009	£484,000	[1]44,542	To be published summer 2009.
The couple connection	February 2008 to June 2009	£472,000	[1]17,292	To be published summer 2009
Dads space	February 2008 to June 2009	£517,000	[1]19,760	To be published summer 2009
One space	February 2008 to June 2009	£275,000	[1]11,472	To be published summer 2009
Got a teenager	February 2008 to June 2009	£571,000	[1]48,989	To be published summer 2009
Contact a family	March 2008 to June 2009	£128,000	[1]41,249	To be published summer 2009
Dad talk	February 2008 to June 2009	£190,000	[1]8,365	To be published summer 2009
Relate SMS and livetalk	March 2008 to June 2009	£372,000	[1]1,081	To be published summer 2009
Ask ACE	January 2008 to June 2009	£566,000	[1]1,644	To be published summer 2009
Parentline plus extended telephone support	1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011	£1,603,000	[1]6,610	Evaluation due July 2009
Transition information sessions demonstration project	2006 to 2008	£7 million	The pilot ran in up to 50 schools, serving a cohort of parents with a child joining reception class or year 7, in each of nine LAs in 2006/2007 and 20 LAs in 2007/2008.	An evaluation report by Ecotec Research and Consulting Limited is posted on the DCSF Research site.
The early learning partnerships project	October 2006 to March 2008	Approximately £6 million	Nine voluntary sector agencies used 12 different approaches across 20 demonstration sites to encourage and develop practices which could help parents of children aged one to three (who were at risk of learning delay) to engage with their children's learning. Number of individual families/parents reached not known.	Published on 25 June 2008 as DCSF-RR039/ DCSF-RB039 available on DCSF website.

[1] Parents who used the service, statistics collected up to 31 December 2008.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what timetable he has set for revising *(a)* statutory guidance on Working Together to Safeguard Children and *(b)* the guidance and systems used by hospital accident and emergency departments in relation to safeguarding children in response to Lord Laming's recommendations. [274249]

Beverley Hughes: As stated on page 6 of 'The protection of children in England: action plan—The Government's response to Lord Laming', published on 6 May, revised statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', will be completed by the end of 2009 following consultation. Page 34 explains that the Department of Health and the Department for Children Schools and Families will work with the College of Emergency Medicine and others to take forward work to ensure that systems, guidance and training are in place so that all A and E departments are playing their full part in identifying and dealing appropriately with children at risk. Recommendations will be produced by December 2009 that take account of the cost and affordability of implementation.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether there is a statutory duty on schools to designate a child protection teacher. [275235]

Beverley Hughes: Although there is no specific statutory duty on schools to designate a child protection teacher, schools do have a duty under sections 175 and 157 of the Education Act 2002 to have regard to any guidance given to them from time to time by the Secretary of State when considering what arrangements they need to make with regard to the welfare of children. Guidance contained in Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2007 makes clear that a senior member of the school's leadership team should be designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of schools with a designated child protection teacher; and if he will make a statement. [275269]

Beverley Hughes: The Department do not collect this information. School governing bodies and proprietors of independent schools are responsible for ensuring that their establishment has effective policies and procedures in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in accordance with guidance issued under sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002. Guidance in Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2007 makes clear that a senior member of the school's leadership team should be designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues. In some schools it may be necessary to have more than one designated person, and in all schools a deputy should be available to act in the designated person's absence.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that all its correspondence conforms to the font size requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [274785]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department appreciates that clear, concise and legible communications are critical to promoting equality for disabled people. The Department is committed to ensuring that all its communications, both internal and with people beyond the Department, are accessible. Our business correspondence system requires that all e-mails and letters sent by the Department are in a 12-point font size and we have published guidance to encourage all staff to comply.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which pupil referral units were placed in special measures in each year since 1997. [256422]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. The information was included in HMCI Christine Gilbert's reply given on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1312W.

Schools Recruitment Service

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when the Schools Recruitment Service was originally planned to be launched; when he expects it to be launched; and what the reasons are for the difference; [276669]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the procurement, development and implementation of the Schools Recruitment Service. [276670]

Jim Knight: The Schools Recruitment Service was originally scheduled for launch in spring 2009. This has now been rescheduled to launch in September 2009. There have been delays as a result of the Department ensuring the need for this service is robust and fit for purpose for our schools and local authorities to use and a request from prospective suppliers during the procurement process for more time to respond to the requirement.

It is not possible to give an exact figure on the costs for the Schools Recruitment Service as it forms part of the wider Education Sector Shared Services programme. The budget for this programme for 2008-09 was £647,500.

Social Work: Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many people have enrolled on a social work degree course in each year since 2003; [269664]

(2) how many people have graduated with a degree in social work in each year since 2003; [269665]

(3) how many social work graduates have entered the social work profession in each year since 2003. [269666]

Beverley Hughes: The General Social Care Council registers both social work students and practicing social workers.

The number of social work graduates entering the social work profession is not recorded by the General Social Care Council; however they do record the number of students enrolled on the course each year (line A in the following table) and the number that have graduated with a degree since 2003 (line B). The Council also holds information on the year in which all social workers who are currently registered with them achieved their qualification.

Line C in the table shows the year of graduation for currently registered social workers who hold the social work degree.

		2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
A.	Number of people enrolled on the social work degree since 2003	2,582	4,748	6,065	5,731	5,323
B.	Number of people who have graduated with a social work degree since 2003	—	4	1,037	2,976	4,439
C.	Number of graduates currently registered as social workers	—	4	955	2,754	3,925

Social Workers: Assessments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has made a recent assessment of the standard required to achieve a pass mark in social work degree examinations for those who work with children. [275684]

Beverley Hughes: Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) determine the requirements for a pass mark in accordance with their internal academic quality assurance procedures which validate degrees and ensure they are fit for purpose. The internal quality assurance procedures are overseen by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

The General Social Care Council (GSCC) regulates and promotes standards of delivery of the social work degree and quality assures social work education. It also accredits HEIs offering social work qualifications at both qualifying and post-qualifying levels.

The Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families and for Health are committed to ensuring that social worker training is highly effective. They have established a Social Work Task Force which will make recommendations on how to drive forward long term reform of social work, including in response to many issues raised in Lord Laming's recent report "The Protection of Children in England" on the areas of training, practice, recruitment and leadership.

Social Workers: Pay

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* starting salary and *(b)* salary of a child social worker is. [276381]

Beverley Hughes: Children and families' social workers are employed in a range of organisations in the statutory, private and third sectors. Their salaries are determined at a local level and the Department for Children, Schools and Families does not directly collect information about this.

In their 2006 Children's, Young People's and Families' Social Care Workforce Survey, the Local Government Analysis and Research group (LGAR) estimated the average (mean) minimum salary for a children and families' social worker employed in a local authority in England to be £22,513.

In their Children's, Young People's and Families' Social Care Pay and Workforce Survey 2007, LGAR estimated the average (mean) salary for all social workers employed by local authorities in England and Wales to be £28,389.

Young People: Crime Prevention

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 478-81W, on the youth inclusion programme, which *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools are situated on each estate; [275596]

(2) which schools are taking part in the youth inclusion programme in each local authority area. [275650]

Beverley Hughes: The names of schools engaged in Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIPs) are not collected centrally.

All YIPs work with the schools in their catchment area. These will usually be secondary schools, unless it is a Junior YIP (for eight to 12-year-olds). A representative from each of the schools in the area is invited to the multi-agency meeting which identifies the 50 young people for the programme. These are the 50 young people who are deemed to be most at risk of exclusion, truancy or offending in their area.

Some YIPs employ teachers and deliver an education programme to those who are excluded from school, or on the verge of exclusion, so that the young people are reintegrated into school on a full-time basis. YIP workers also work on a one-to-one basis with young people in school in some cases.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average waiting time for adjudication on appeals made by individuals removed from eligibility for incapacity benefit payments was in the last period for which figures are available. [276379]

Bridget Prentice: The average waiting time for incapacity benefit appeals for the financial year 2008-09 was 10.9 weeks.

Bribery Bill: Draft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 220W, on Bribery Bill: draft, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter from the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. [276543]

Maria Eagle: A copy of the letter was placed in the House of Commons Library on 6 May 2009.

Departmental ICT

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many and what proportion of computers in his Department malware was detected in 2008. [275396]

Mr. Straw: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm this information.

The Ministry of Justice complies with Mandatory Requirement 39 of the Security Policy Framework which requires a policy on managing risks posed by all forms of malicious software ("malware").

Departmental Internet

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* page impressions and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in each of the last three financial years. [276428]

Mr. Straw: The figures given in the table are for the departmental website www.justice.gov.uk for the last two financial years since the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007. Visits are included in these figures as they provide a more accurate measure of website usage.

	Number
9 May 2007 to 31 March 2008	
Page impressions	7,783,155
Visits	2,361,813
Visitors	1,689,202
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	
Page impressions	12,942,753
Visits	4,231,791
Visitors	3,225,310

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005. [274462]

Mr. Straw: Mobile phones are managed at a local level across much of the Department. Consequently, full records are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows mobile phone losses for MOJ HQ, National Offender Management Service (NOMS) (including Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS)) and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) only. Blackberry loss figures cover Ministry of Justice (MOJ) HQ, NOMS, HMPS, NPS and OCJR:

	BlackBerry	*Mobile phones*
2005	0	24
2006	0	19
2007	1	20
2008	14	42
2009 (to 31 March)	6	14

The above information relates to losses by civil servants. As a matter of process, all mobile phones and BlackBerrys that are registered as lost (or stolen) are blocked, making it impossible for them to be used.

2008-09 records show that one BlackBerry was lost by a Minister. No losses of BlackBerrys or mobile phones for special advisers were recorded in the 2008-09 period. Records for previous years do not separate out this information, which therefore cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273786]

Maria Eagle: Figures are not held centrally across the Ministry of Justice as within business groups expenditure is not routinely separately recorded; to provide the information on spend on branded stationery and gifts for internal/external promotional use would be disproportionate to cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many questions for written answer have been tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 to date; and how many in each case have been (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [276481]

Mr. Straw: 5,304 questions were tabled to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in the 2007-08 Session. The information requested on how many were answered and not answered due to disproportionate cost is not held centrally and would require a manual check of the answer to each of the 5,304 questions.

However, the database was adapted at the start of the current session and the information gathered shows that MOJ has had 2,562 questions tabled from 3 December 2008 to 15 May 2009 of which 2,257 have been answered substantively, 104 have been answered with partial information or with disproportionate cost answer, 191 have been transferred to other Departments and 10 have been withdrawn.

Driving Offences: Foreigners

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign nationals in charge of *(a)* cars, *(b)* heavy goods vehicles and *(c)* light goods vehicles have been prosecuted for causing (i) death and (ii) injury to (A) pedestrians, (B) cyclists and (C) other drivers in each of the last five years; [276456]

(2) how many foreign nationals in charge of *(a)* cars, *(b)* heavy goods vehicles and *(c)* light goods vehicles have been (i) charged with and (ii) prosecuted for driving offences in each of the last five years. [276457]

Maria Eagle: Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not include nationality of the defendant.

Lindholme Prison

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* foreign national prisoners were in detention in Lindholme prison in each of the last 12 months. [275524]

Mr. Straw: The following table gives the numbers of *(a)* UK national and *(b)* foreign national prisoners there were at quarter-year intervals between March 2008 and March 2009 in Lindholme prison.

	Total population	*Foreign nationals*	*UK nationals*	*Nationality not recorded*
March 2009	1,122	226	896	0

	Total population	Foreign nationals	UK nationals	Nationality not recorded
December 2008	1,101	176	876	49
September 2008	1,108	162	900	46
June 2008	1,069	135	897	37
March 2008	1,093	152	898	43

These figures include foreign national prisoners serving their sentence, those on remand pending prosecution and those being held under immigration powers pending deportation action.

A prisoner's nationality in respect of these records is self declared. For a period of time the system will always show that a number of prisoners have unrecorded nationality, although in reality this is either undeclared nationality or a refusal to disclose one's nationality.

Data on foreign national prisoners are published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, again on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Offences Against Children

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 833W, on offences against children, what proportion of offenders aged 21 years or over convicted of offences of sexual activity with a child under 13 received *(a)* immediate custody, *(b)* a suspended sentence, *(c)* a community sentence, *(d)* a fine, *(e)* a conditional or absolute discharge and (f) other treatment in each year since 1997. [276383]

Mr. Straw: The available information is shown in the following table. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation.

The table shows those sentenced from 2004, the first year in which anyone was sentenced under the relevant sections of the 2003 Act. Offenders who committed such offences before 1 May 2004 will have been sentenced under previous legislation and do not appear in the table: therefore the increased numbers over the years reflect the transition to the new legislation.

The proportion of those given various disposals is shown as a percentage of those sentenced. Lags in time between conviction and sentencing may mean that the total numbers convicted and sentenced in a year may not match. Data held by the Ministry of Justice records the age of the offender at the time of sentencing, the figure's show all offenders aged over 21 and over at that point.

Percentage[1] of offenders sentenced to disposals for sexual activity with a child under 13[2], 2003-07

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Abuse of trust—Sexual offences against a child under 13				
Absolute or conditional discharge	—	33.3	—	—
Fine	—	—	—	—
Community sentence	—	—	100.0	—
Suspended sentence	—	—	—	—
Immediate custody	—	66.7	—	—
Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—
Total number sentenced	—	3	1	—
Familial sexual offences with a child under 13				
Absolute or conditional discharge	—	—	—	—
Fine	—	—	—	—
Community sentence	—	43.8	25.0	8.0
Suspended sentence	—	—	—	16.0
Immediate custody	100.0	56.3	75.0	76.0
Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	—
Total number sentenced	3	16	16	25
Rape or attempted rape of a child under 13				
Absolute or conditional discharge	—	—	—	—
Fine	—	—	—	—
Community sentence	—	—	6.3	5.8
Suspended sentence	—	2.7	—	2.9
Immediate custody	100.0	94.6	92.2	91.3
Otherwise dealt with	—	2.7	1.6	—
Total number sentenced	3	37	64	69
Sexual activity with a child under 13				
Absolute or conditional discharge	5.0	1.2	1.5	—
Fine	—	1.2	—	—
Community sentence	35.0	37.8	19.5	23.3
Suspended sentence	—	2.4	4.5	9.3
Immediate custody	60.0	54.9	71.4	65.1
Otherwise dealt with	—	2.4	3.0	2.3
Total number sentenced	20	82	133	129
Sexual assault of a female child under 13				
Absolute or conditional discharge	4.3	0.7	—	1.7
Fine	—	—	—	—
Community sentence	34.8	29.0	17.4	14.5
Suspended sentence	8.7	2.1	7.2	9.8
Immediate custody	47.8	67.6	71.9	73.6
Otherwise dealt with	4.3	0.7	3.4	0.4
Total number sentenced	23	145	235	235
Sexual assault of a male child under 13				
Absolute or conditional discharge	—	—	—	—
Fine	—	—	—	—
Community sentence	—	31.3	14.6	15.0
Suspended sentence	—	—	2.4	7.5

Percentage[1] of offenders sentenced to disposals for sexual activity with a child under 13[2], 2003-07

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Immediate custody	100.0	65.6	78.0	77.5
Otherwise dealt with	—	34.4	4.9	—
Total number sentenced	4	32	41	40

[1] The figures used are shown as a percentage of those sentenced. Lags in time between sentencing and conviction may mean the numbers sentenced and convicted in a year may not match.
[2] These offences were an enacted by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and came into force on 1 May 2004, there were no separately identifiable equivalent offences in the Sexual Offences Act 1956.
Notes:
1. These data are based on the principal offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners on whole life tariffs are in (i) Category B, (ii) Category C and (iii) Category D prisons. [276659]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently seven male prisoners serving whole life tariffs within in category B and less than five in category C. There are no whole life tariff prisoners in category D prisons.

There are no female prisoners serving a whole life tariff in closed, semi-open or open prisons.

Prisoners: Males

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many male prisoners were categorised as category *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C and *(d)* D in each month since January 2008. [276037]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the number of male prisoners held as Category A in each month since January 2008.

The information requested on the number of adult male prisoners categorised as Category B, C and D is not recorded centrally. To provide this would require contacting individual prison establishments, which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Number of prisoners categorised as Category A—January 2008 to April 2009

Month	Monthly total
2008	
January	941
February	924
March	927
April	934
May	933
June	934
July	944
August	928
September	933
October	926
November	914
December	916
2009	
January	909
February	914
March	917
April	911

Prisoners: Religion

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the text of Prison Service Order 4550 on religion in the form it took before its amendment by Prison Service Instruction 2009-016. [276660]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service Order (PSO) 4550 Religion remains extant and has been amended by Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 16/2009. A hard copy of all PSOs and PSIs is sent to the House of Commons Library and a copy of the original document can be found there. Copies of current PSOs and PSIs may be found on the Prison Service website:

www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

A PSO only expires when it is revised or revoked; it is usual, when revised, for the PSO to then be replaced. PSIs are temporary documents that contain mandatory actions and are often issued to introduce amendments to PSOs. I am happy to send the hon. Member a copy of the previous and the current documents.

Prisons: Barking and Dagenham

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many representations have been made to his Department in opposition to the proposed construction of a prison at Beam Park West; [275824]

(2) what arrangements his Department made for public consultation prior to the decision to build a prison on the Beam Park West site. [275936]

Mr. Straw: We have received a small number of representations opposing the prison development at Beam Park West.

We will discuss with my hon. Friend and with representatives from the London Thames Gateway and the London borough of Barking and Dagenham the scope, location, date and time of a public exhibition to be held prior to the submission of planning permission. We will also discuss with them which specific groups of local people, councillors and others should receive a special presentation to.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether New Hall Farm Lea, near Preston and Kirkham, has been under consideration by his Department as a site for a new prison; whether it is still under consideration; and if he will make a statement. [276531]

Mr. Hanson: As my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice announced on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-80, we will not be proceeding with the 2,500 place "Titan" prisons, but we will be building 1,500 place prisons instead.

The site at New Hall Farm Lea was one of a number of sites brought to the attention of the National Offender Management Service as part of the site search exercise for "Titan" prisons to hold 2,500 prisoners. It was assessed, but not considered suitable for development as a Titan. There are no current plans for prisons on any of the sites listed other than those named in Parliament on 27 April.

Prisons: Discipline

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 483-84W, on prisons: discipline, which prisons in England and Wales do not have officers qualified to act as Tornado support. [275413]

Mr. Straw: As of 18 May, a total of 23 prisons in England and Wales have no permanent trained staff on site who are qualified to act as Tornado support, either because of the size of the establishment, or because of the prison's security category and characteristics. Arrangements are in place for nearby prisons to provide Tornado qualified staff to these establishments should this be necessary.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds have been transferred from prison to a secure mental health unit in each of the last three years. [276555]

Mr. Hanson: The number of prisoners in England and Leeds who have been transferred from prison to a secure mental health unit in each of the last three years is set out in the table.

	England	*Leeds*
2006	903	8
2007	899	12
2008	946	13

Reoffenders

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate was for people who *(a)* received reprimands, *(b)* were subject to dispersal orders and *(c)* received custodial sentences in (i) Wales, (ii) England, (iii) Dyfed Powys police area, (iv) Gwent police area, (v) South Wales police area and (vi) North Wales police area in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [266083]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are committed to tackling youth crime across the country. We published the Youth Crime Action Plan in July 2008 which is a comprehensive analysis of what further we need to do to tackle youth crime. It sets out a 'triple track' approach of enforcement and punishment where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge where it is most needed, and better and earlier prevention.

The rates of reoffending in England and Wales of juveniles receiving a reprimand or final warning for the last three years for which data are available are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Reoffending of juveniles receiving reprimands and final warnings, 2004, 2005, 2006

Cohort	*Number of offenders*	*Proportion of offenders reoffending (percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
Q1 2004	26,614	26.5	63.3
Q1 2005	28,225	27.1	61.4
Q12006	30,784	27.8	64.7

Disaggregated data for reprimands and final warnings are not collated. These data cannot be broken down by geographical area.

The Ministry of Justice does not collate data on reoffending by offenders given dispersal orders.

The rate of reoffending in England and Wales of juvenile offenders released from custody for the last three years for which data are available are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Reoffending of juveniles discharged from custody, 2004, 2005, 2006

Cohort	*Number of offenders*	*Proportion of offenders reoffending (percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
Q1 2004	815	76.4	414.8
Q1 2005	844	73.1	409.5
Q1 2006	817	77.0	404.0

These data cannot be broken down by geographical area.

While juveniles released from custody have the highest reoffending rates, between 2000 to 2006, we have seen a 16.2 per cent. fall in the frequency rate of reoffending of juveniles (both male and female) released from custody. The Government have pledged additional funding of over £100 million for measures which will cut youth crime in the short-term and prevent it in the long-term.

Regimes in the under-18 secure estate reflect the principal aim of the youth justice system, which is to prevent offending. All young offender institutions accommodating under 18 year olds are required to put in place a local strategy that will deliver a portfolio of programmes to address the offending behaviour and associated needs of the young people. For every young person, an individual assessment is undertaken to identify the factors that have contributed to their offending and that will need to be addressed in order to reduce the risk of re-offending when they are released into the community.

The rates of reoffending in England and Wales of adult offenders released from custody for the last three years for which data are available are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Reoffending of adults discharged from custody, 2004, 2005, 2006

Cohort	Number of offenders	Proportion of offenders reoffending (percentage)	Number of offences per 100 offenders
Q1 2004	15,761	51.9	253.1
Q1 2005	14,595	49.1	228.5
Q1 2006	14,380	46.5	208.4

Data on the reoffending of adults under probation supervision broken down by probation area and local authority (upper tier only) are now available. For further details please see 'Local reoffending results 1 October 2007-30 September 2008 England and Wales' available at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/local-adult-reoffending-oct07-sept08.pdf

This is the first time that reoffending data at the local level have been made available.

Sentencing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what individuals sentenced to two months custody or less served in custody during each of the last five years. [275489]

Mr. Hanson: The average time served in days, including time on remand, for all prisoners sentenced to two months or less is shown in the following table.

	Average time served (days)
2003	35
2004	34
2005	34
2006	35
2007	33

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Supreme Court: Costs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the Supreme Court building; [276262]

(2) what the original estimate of the cost of the Supreme Court building was. [276493]

Mr. Straw: As announced in June 2007 the original estimated set-up costs were £56.9 million, made up of £36.7 million for capital construction, which will be met over a 30-year period through rental payments of £2.1 million per annum, increasing at a rate of 2.5 per cent. per annum; plus £20.2 million of other set-up costs (also announced in June 2007 and including provision of library and visitor facilities).

The current estimated set-up costs are £58.9 million; £56.9 million as described above, plus an additional £2 million of repairs to Middlesex Guildhall (as announced in July 2008). We also expect a separate cost for new security measures to bring the building into line with other high profile central Government and court buildings in central London (as announced in July 2008). I will give the House a final update on costs at the end of the programme.

Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to monitor the effect of implementation of section 93 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 on the number and proportion of negotiated settlements between creditors and debtors. [276738]

Bridget Prentice: Last year my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor asked for a reassessment to ensure the enforcement provisions in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 remain appropriate. The Government announced, on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 46WS, that it will not implement Part 4 of the Act which contains section 93.

Young Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many under 18-year-olds have been prosecuted for *(a)* sexual offences and *(b)* robbery in each year since 1997. [276229]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons aged 10 to 17 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for sexual offences and robbery in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the following table.

The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for sexual offences and robbery, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

Offence group	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sexual offences	777	893	916	941	1,120	1,208	1,073	1,237	1,146	987	1,089
Robbery	4,672	4,388	4,107	5,357	6,688	6,618	5,546	5,666	5,809	6,418	6,808

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Youth Custody

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many beds in each unit in each secure *(a)* children's home and *(b)* training centre were block-contracted by the Youth Justice Board in each year since 2002; [276468]

(2) how many secure placements in secure *(a)* children's homes and (b) training centres were purchased by the Youth Justice Board by (i) block contract and (ii) spot purchase in each year since 2002. [276469]

Mr. Hanson: The data requested about block-purchase of places in secure children's homes and secure training centres are provided in the tables. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board and relate to the contractual position as at 1 April in each year. Actual contracted places may vary through the year where a contractor fails to meet the requirements of the contract and places are declared unavailable until the issues have been addressed.

Places block purchased by YJB in secure children's homes

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Aldine House	0	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
Atkinson Unit	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	10
Aycliffe	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Barton Moss	17	18	20	20	20	20	20	20
Briars Hey (Orchard House)	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brunei Unit	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clare Lodge	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clayfields House	9	9	12	12	12	12	12	12
Dales House	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyson Hall (Gladstone Unit)	9	16	16	16	16	16	0	0
East Moor	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Hillside	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15
Lincolnshire	4	7	7	7	7	7	8	8
Kyloe House	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Leverton	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orchard Lodge	16	18	18	18	18	18	16	16
Red Bank	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
Redcastle	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. John's Tiffield	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stamford House	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stoke House	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton Place	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Swanwick Lodge	5	8	10	10	10	10	10	10
Thornbury House	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vinney Green	18	20	20	20	20	20	20	20

Places block purchased by YJB in secure training centres

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Hassockfield	42	42	42	42	42	58	58	58
Medway	66	76	76	76	76	76	76	76
Oakhill	n/a	n/a	n/a	80	80	80	80	80
Rainsbrook	64	76	76	76	76	87	87	87

From time to time, the Youth Justice Board spot-purchases places in secure children's homes. The available information on such purchases since 2006 is given in the following table. Data for 2002-05 are not available. The YJB does not spot-purchase places at secure training centres.

Places spot-purchased by YJB in secure children's homes

	Number of spot purchases
2006	65
2007	71
2008	43
2009	0

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females of (i) 15, (ii) 16 and (iii) 17 years of age who were classified as vulnerable have been placed in young offender institutions in each year since 2002. [276473]

Mr. Hanson: When a young person is remanded or sentenced to custody by the courts, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) places him or her in the most appropriate accommodation, taking account of a number of factors including his or her age, sex and any known vulnerabilities such as mental health problems or drug or alcohol abuse.

More-vulnerable young people are normally placed in secure children's homes or secure training centres, but young offender institutions are able to care for some young people identified as vulnerable. For example, the Keppel Unit at Wetherby young offender institution is a special unit providing 48 places for more-vulnerable 15 and 16-year-old boys.

Placement decisions are based on information provided in the young person's ASSET form. The information asked for is not available in the form requested. Vulnerability includes a wide range of possible factors and it would be necessary for the Youth Justice Board to search through each young person's record; that would be a large exercise, involving disproportionate cost.

Youth Justice

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely effects

of the implementation of proposals for a Young Offenders' Academy on numbers of custodial places elsewhere in the juvenile estate. [276783]

Mr. Hanson: East Potential is an organisation that works with young offenders in East London. Its proposal to develop a young offenders academy is still at the development stage. It is too early to discuss the Government's possible response to, or the likely effects of, a more fully developed plan.

Any proposals regarding use of custody for young people under 18 who offend would be considered in the light of the Government's overall approach to youth justice, which focuses on prevention; reducing offending and reoffending; and public safety, with custody available as a last resort where no other option is realistic. It would also be necessary to look at the capacity of the under-18 secure estate and the likely future demand for places in it.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Storms

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what international aid has so far been brought into the Irrawaddy delta region following Cyclone Nargis by *(a)* the international community and *(b)* the UK. [276756]

Mr. Michael Foster: More than 30 countries and international organisations have provided aid to Burma following Cyclone Nargis. However, the financial value of their contributions has not been recorded systematically. By 30 April 2009, nearly US$315 million had been committed to the United Nations Emergency Appeal for Cyclone Nargis. Many donors, including the United Kingdom, have also made significant contributions through other channels such as non-governmental organisations.

In 2008-09 the United Kingdom committed £45 million towards the Cyclone Nargis relief effort, over 90 per cent. of which has now been delivered through the United Nations and non-governmental organisations. In March 2009, the Secretary of State for International Development agreed to provide a further £20 million for Burma over the next two years in addition to previously planned spending. Approximately £12 million of this extra funding will be spent on cyclone-related assistance.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275974]

Mr. Michael Foster: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication 'Public Bodies'. Copies of 'Public Bodies 2008' are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is available in the Department for International Development's (DFID) Annual Resource Accounts, which are available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Overseas Aid: Public Consultation

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to involve members of diaspora communities from developing countries who are resident in the UK in formulation of his Department's policy in relation to the those countries. [275097]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is country-level consultation with United Kingdom-based diaspora groups on the Department for International Development's (DFID) strategies and country assistance plans (CAPs). For instance, in 2008 we consulted Somali, Pakistani, Nepali and Bangladeshi diaspora groups. Later this month DFID is organising a series of outreach events with the Bangladeshi diaspora in various locations in the UK.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* 10 Downing Street and *(b)* the Office of the Minister for the Olympics has spent on branded stationery and gifts for (i) internal and (ii) external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273770]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not held in a format that would enable the question to be answered without incurring disproportionate cost.

Local Government

Janet Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his policy is on co-operation between local authorities and community associations; what representations he has received on the recent decision of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council on its relationship with community associations and the future payment of grants committed to such associations; and if he will make a statement. [276021]

Kevin Brennan: The Government's policy on the relationship between local authorities and the third sector is to promote partnership working in order to achieve better outcomes for local communities. Local compacts agreed between local public agencies and the local third sector set out the principles and undertakings to relationships at a local level.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2008 set out the new local government performance framework including the role of the third sector. A key part of this is national indicator (N17) which measures the performance of local statutory bodies in creating an environment for a thriving third sector. All local areas will be assessed on this by the new comprehensive area assessment.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has received no representations on this but the Office of the Third Sector has been made aware of the matter.

Public Sector: Recruitment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent representations he has received on levels of advertising of public sector jobs and statutory notices in local newspapers. [256398]

Mr. Watson: In my ministerial role I receive representations on many things.

I can confirm that I have received a number of representations regarding levels of advertising of public sector jobs and statutory notices in local newspapers.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 14/7 Abortion Laws in Other Countries; and if he will make a statement; [274758]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 5/5 Publicity Material and Publications from Anti Abortion Organisation; and if he will make a statement; [274759]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 3/6 Abortion Act 1967 Correspondence between Sir Bernard Braine MP and Minister of Health on matters concerning abortions in NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement; [274760]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/16—Bill to Reduce Time Limit on Abortion; and if he will make a statement; [276233]

(5) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/17 Consideration of Abortion Measures In Warnock Bill (Confidential); and if he will make a statement; [276858]

(6) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/18 Abortion—Private Members' Bills 1989; and if he will make a statement; [276859]

(7) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/10 Abortion (Amendment) Bill Committee Stage Briefing; and if he will make a statement; [276860]

(8) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/27 Select Committee on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill; and if he will make a statement; [276861]

(9) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/11 Nicholas Winterton—Abortion (Financial Benefit) Bill; and if he will make a statement; [276862]

(10) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file CPO 2/12 Edward Leigh—Abortion (Treatment of Non Resident Women) Bill; and if he will make a statement. [276863]

Dawn Primarolo: We can confirm that the Department does hold these files. It will take some time to review the information requested and we shall endeavour to do so within 20 working days, which is the period of time that would apply had the hon. Member submitted his questions as freedom of information requests. I will write to the hon. Member in due course and place a copy of my letter in the Library.

Animals: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the potential harm to public health from illegal wildlife imports; and if he will make a statement. [275942]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, working where appropriate with the Department of Health, produces regular assessments of the risk to Great Britain of various different animal diseases, a number of which are "zoonotic" and can therefore be passed to humans. Copies of these veterinary risk assessments are published at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/riskassess.htm

These assessments include the animal disease risk of illegal imports, although the nature of that activity means that it is difficult to quantify the risk. That is why the Government have robustly enforced import requirements for pets and commercially traded animals.

Colorectal Cancer

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in England and registered at GP practices in Wales are awaiting bowel cancer screening; and how many GP practices in Wales have such patients registered. [277128]

Ann Keen: There are approximately 3,000 eligible people resident in England with a general practitioner (GP) in Wales. These individuals are served by 29 different Welsh GP practices.

The NHS Cancer Screening Programmes and Connecting for Health are working actively to ensure that, once bowel cancer screening is established in the areas where they are resident, services will be provided to these individuals.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274305]

Mr. Bradshaw: Prior to 2006 records were not held centrally for the core Department, and are not available. Since then the core Department has not dismissed any civil servants for poor performance, although other sanctions, including demotion, have been used in cases of poor performance. In the last year less than five individuals have been dismissed from the core Department for reasons other than performance.

In NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) no civil servants have been dismissed for poor performance

since the organisation was founded in 2000. In the years 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 no civil servant was dismissed from NHS PASA. In each of 2001, 2002, 2007 and 2008 a small numbers of individuals (under five in each year) were dismissed from NHS PASA for reasons other than performance.

In the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency less than five individuals were dismissed for poor performance in the past year. Total dismissals in each year since 2004 have been greater than zero but less than five.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275971]

Mr. Bradshaw: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". Copies of "Public Bodies 2008" are available in the Library.

Detailed information on the Department's advisory bodies can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Organisationsthatworkwith DH/Otherorganisations/DH_4105904

Information about reviews commissioned in the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275345]

Mr. Bradshaw: During the year April 2008 to March 2009 the proportion of office supplies purchased by this Department equated to 30.9 per cent.

The Department's stationery contract does not presently require the supply of recycled supplies. The Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions are currently tendering for a pan-government collaborative office supplies framework, which we hope will achieve a more sustainable framework.

Epilepsy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to reduce the number of avoidable epilepsy-related deaths in childhood since the National Sentinel Audit of Epilepsy-Related Deaths in 2002. [275871]

Ann Keen: The risk factors associated with sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) are poorly controlled epilepsy and a history of seizures at night. Detailed information on epilepsy, and the risk factors associated with SUDEP, has been made available on the NHS Choices website

www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Epilepsy/Pages/Complications.aspx

in a form which can be easily accessed and understood by those with epilepsy, their families and carers.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children *(a)* under the age of 12 and *(b)* aged between 12 and 16 years had been diagnosed with epilepsy on the latest date for which figures are available. [275889]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to assess his Department's progress against the recommendations of its 2003 Epilepsy Action Plan; and if he will make a statement. [275891]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions is now the key policy document for improving health and social care services for people with neurological conditions including epilepsy.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to address the serious weaknesses in the care of people with epilepsy referred to in the Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report of 2001. [275872]

Ann Keen: There is a wide range of initiatives under way to improve services for patients with epilepsy. The National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions and clinical guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence provide local national health service organisations with evidence-based markers of good practice to support service improvements. In addition, wider policy developments, including the Next Stage Review, World Class Commissioning, the information and choice agenda, the Transforming Community Services programme and work on care planning for people with long-term conditions, are continuing to contribute to improvements to epilepsy services.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to reduce levels of misdiagnosis of epilepsy. [275873]

Ann Keen: Epilepsy can be difficult to diagnose because there are many other conditions that can cause seizures, such as migraines or panic attacks. There are no specific tests for epilepsy, however in some cases tests can highlight an underlying medical condition which may be causing the seizures.

Detailed medical advice, suitable for health professionals, on the issues surrounding the problems in diagnosis of epilepsy has been made available at the NHS Evidence website:

www.evidence.nhs.uk/Search.aspx?t=epilepsy

Fertility: Medical Treatments

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many assisted conception treatments were carried out by *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* a private provider in each region in each of the last five years; and how many such treatments were given by (i) in

vitro fertilisation, (ii) intracytoplasmic sperm injection and (iii) intrauterine insemination; [276755]

(2) how much the NHS spent on assisted conception treatment in each region in each of the last five years; [276763]

(3) how many assisted conception treatments were commissioned by each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [276764]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not hold this information centrally. We are currently carrying out a survey of primary care trusts' policies on the provision of fertility treatment which will be published when finalised.

Health Services: Elderly

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the cost per year to the public purse of providing *(a)* personal and *(b)* nursing care free of charge to those over the age of 65 years. [275448]

Phil Hope: In England, the Government accepted each of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care, except for the recommendation to provide free personal care in all settings. Making all personal care free would incur substantial additional cost. This was estimated in 2003-04 at an additional £1.5 billion; it can only increase in future years.

Since April 2003, all residents of care homes providing nursing care, including those placed by local authorities, have received national health service funding of the nursing element of their care, rather than that element of their care being provided by the local council and subject to means testing. Information on the costs to the NHS of free nursing care in nursing homes is not collected centrally.

We will publish the 'Care and Support' Green Paper in June 2009. It will lay out a series of options around reforming the care and support system, to ensure that care is high quality and cost-effective; that people have choice and control over the care they receive and that the funding system is fair, sustainable, and affordable for individuals and the state.

Health Services: Waiting Lists

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what each measured waiting time in each NHS organisation serving residents of Westminster was in each of the last 10 years. [276210]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department collects a range of waiting times returns to monitor national health service waiting times performance. These returns cover referral to treatment, in-patient and out-patient stage of treatment, diagnostics, accident and emergency, coronary heart disease, genito-urinary medicine and direct access audiology. In addition, the cancer national database is used to monitor progress on cancer waits.

Data on the waiting times in Westminster in all these areas has been placed in the Library.

Heart Diseases

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many grown-ups with congenital heart disease are being treated by paediatricians. [276572]

Ann Keen: The following table and notes shows how many grown-ups with congenital heart disease are being treated by paediatricians and other clinicians.

Count of finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease for those aged 16 and over by consultant main specialty, 2007-08*

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Main specialty code	*Main specialty description*	*Finished consultant episodes*
180	Accident and Emergency (A&E)	4
190	Anaesthetics	3
320	Cardiology	3,145
170	Cardiothoracic Surgery	924
303	Clinical Haematology	6
305	Clinical Pharmacology	1
192	Critical Care Medicine	13
302	Endocrinology	2
301	Gastroenterology	6
600	General Medical Practice	1
300	General Medicine	267
100	General Surgery	4
430	Geriatric Medicine	10
502	Gynaecology	6
350	Infectious Diseases	1
560	Midwife episode	1
361	Nephrology	3
400	Neurology	6
501	Obstetrics	2
130	Ophthalmology	2
321	Paediatric Cardiology	593
420	Paediatrics	21
810	Radiology	7
340	Respiratory Medicine (Thoracic Medicine)	87
410	Rheumatology	1

Count of finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease for those aged 16 and over by consultant main specialty, 2007-08*

	Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector	
Main specialty code	*Main specialty description*	*Finished consultant episodes*
110	Trauma and Orthopaedics	1
&	Not Known	3

Notes

1. The NHS Information Centre has provided the count of finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease* for those aged 16 and over, by consultant specialty, for the period 2007-08.
2. They have provided a list of the main specialty of consultants for each episode, not just paediatricians.

Consultant Main Specialty

This defines the specialty under which the consultant responsible for the care of the patient at that time is registered. Care is needed when analysing Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as "acute"). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other patient or service information.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

* The following ICD-10 codes have been used:

Q20—Congenital malformations of cardiac chambers and connections
Q21—Congenital malformations of cardiac septa
Q22—Congenital malformations of pulmonary and tricuspid valves
Q23—Congenital malformations of aortic and mitral valves
Q24—Other congenital malformations of heart

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: ICT

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to achieve a national interface between the Centricity and Medway x-ray providers; and when it is anticipated that the interface will be complete. [275992]

Mr. Bradshaw: Integration of radiology reports and digital images captured via picture archiving and communications (PACS) systems as a component of the national health service care record is a key requirement for national programme for information technology local service providers (LSPs) for their fully-developed patient administration solutions (PAS) in acute hospitals.

Where local PAS systems remain in place, as in the case of the Medway product, the integration process with the PACS is managed as an additional local service by the LSP at the instigation of the trust concerned.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to determine the efficacy of healthcare associated infection control products adopted for use by the NHS in the absence of a recommendation from the Rapid Review Panel. [276612]

Ann Keen: The national health service makes its own local decisions regarding products that have not been considered by the Rapid Review Panel.

The NHS are free to choose which products to purchase.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been vaccinated against human papilloma virus in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [276623]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is a three-dose schedule. The vaccination programme started in September 2008. Provisional HPV vaccine uptake information is provided monthly by primary care trusts (PCTs) and is published on the website:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_Information/Key_vaccine_information/HPV

Information is not available for the hon. Member's constituency. Provisional data at the end of March 2009 are shown in the following tables.

Cohort 1: routine 12 to 13-year-olds school year 8

	Doses given since 1 September 2008					
	Dose 1		*Dose 1 and 2*		*All 3 Doses*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
England	26,3270	85.5	24,8797	80.8	41,261	13.4
North East	14,094	91.0	13,025	84.1	1,517	9.8
Tees Valley	3,693	84.5	3,571	81.8	959	22.0
Middlesbrough PCT	642	73.2	635	72.5	463	52.8
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	799	82.5	776	80.2	398	41.1

Cohort 2: catch-up 17 to 18-year-olds school year 13

	Doses given since 1 September 2008					
	Dose 1		*Dose 1 and 2*		*All 3 Doses*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
England	15,3809	47.7	113,825	35.3	5,481	1.7
North East	8,748	54.3	5,445	33.8	290	1.8
Tees Valley	2,148	47.6	1,748	38.7	0	0.0
Middlesbrough PCT	507	52.3	447	46.1	0	0.0
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	472	47.4	412	41.4	0	0.0

Note:
Tees Valley is not a single administrative or health area. It is an area which comprises Hartlepool PCT, Middlesbrough PCT, Redcar and Cleveland PCT, Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT and Darlington PCT.

The provisional data for all PCTs in England at the end of March 2009 have been placed in the Library.

Incontinence

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether proposed walk-in health centres will provide access to incontinence stores. [276332]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is up to the commissioning primary care trust to determine locally what services will be provided to patients at new general practitioner-led health centres or national health service walk-in centres.

My hon. Friend may wish to approach local NHS organisations for further information.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will initiate a cost-benefit analysis on the provision of integrated continence services; [276333]

(2) how many primary care trusts provide an integrated incontinence service. [276334]

Phil Hope: We have no plans to initiate a cost-benefit analysis on the provision of integrated continence services.

Information on the number of primary care trusts that provide an integrated continence service is not collected.

Influenza

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that patients showing symptoms of swine influenza are able to receive antiviral treatment within 12 hours; [273381]

(2) what tests his Department has conducted of the system of *(a)* access to and *(b)* UK-wide distribution to the public of antiviral drugs; [273382]

(3) whether primary care trusts plans for the location of collection points of antivirals in the event of an influenza pandemic have been finalised; and whether a stock management system for the distribution of antivirals has been established; [273383]

(4) what tests his Department has conducted on the proposed National Flu Line prior to its entry into service; [273384]

(5) what arrangements his Department has put in place for the distribution of antivirals before autumn 2009; [273385]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the number of calls to the proposed National Flu Line at peak times; and when he expects the proposed National Flu Line to reach this level of operability; [273387]

(7) how many call centres are planned for the proposed National Flu Line; and when he expects the National Flu Line to reach this level of operability; [273388]

(8) pursuant to his statement of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 987, on the swine flu update, what plans he has to consult on the list of key infrastructure workers identified as potentially in need of a prophylaxis against influenza. [273390]

Dawn Primarolo: Antiviral drugs are effective so long as they are administered within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. Currently, patients showing symptoms of swine influenza who contact their local general practitioner (GP) or call NHS Direct are prescribed antivirals from stocks held at local Health Protection Agency (HPA) health protection units. National health service organisations have arrangements in place to handle collection of antivirals from the HPA and to ensure patients can readily collect them. The algorithm for diagnosing swine influenza and rapidly accessing and prescribing antiviral drugs where appropriate has been sent to all GPs and is also in use by NHS Direct.

We have provided detailed guidance to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the setting up of the antiviral collection points which will be used by 'Flu Friends' on behalf of symptomatic individuals. All PCTs have received an initial supply of antiviral drugs. PCTs and strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been identifying the number and location of antiviral collection points that would be appropriate to their local health economy. PCTs and SHAs are reviewing existing plans to enable an immediate local response if required.

An essential element of the mitigation phase will be a system for ordering and distributing antivirals. The 'Flu Line' is a groundbreaking system and the first of its kind in the world. It will be able to assess people via either the internet or telephone, co-ordinate the distribution of antivirals and feed back to local health services. The 'Flu Line' will be ready for the autumn and will have been thoroughly tested so that staff, patients and the public can have full confidence in its efficacy.

In the event of a need to distribute antivirals more quickly, an interim service is being put in place to supplement the assessment and authorisation processes. This system is being thoroughly tested and we expect the online aspect of it to be fully operational as soon as it is needed.

In the present containment phase, antivirals are being provided as post-exposure prophylaxis to the close contacts of confirmed cases. We will keep this under review as the situation develops.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the implications for the UK of an influenza pandemic in developing countries; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for International Development on healthcare assistance to developing countries affected by such a pandemic. [273389]

Dawn Primarolo: The "National framework for responding to an influenza pandemic" sets out the potential impact of a pandemic on the United Kingdom and makes it clear that flexible strategies will be needed in deciding how best we respond, irrespective of where the virus actually originates. A copy of the framework has been placed in the Library.

There continues to be on-going collaboration between Department of Health and Department for International Development (DFID) officials. Last year both Departments worked closely in producing the first cross-government "UK international preparedness strategy" for pandemic influenza (a copy of which has been placed in the Library). One of its objectives is to support detection and surveillance activity in countries at risk so that accurate reporting data can be provided and, where feasible, humanitarian assistance can be provided. Officials of both Departments are working closely together to now take this forward, including on-going engagement with the Pandemic Influenza Contingency team in the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

At a series of international conferences since 2006, the UK has pledged to date £37 million to help improve preparedness for avian and pandemic flu. The World Health Organization has set up an emergency fund for the current swine flu outbreak and DFID has announced a donation of £5 million towards this.

Influenza: Drugs

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many doses of Tamiflu the NHS holds; [274045]

(2) what contingency arrangements his Department has made for a re-emergence of swine influenza in the autumn. [274047]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has been planning for a possible influenza pandemic for some time and has robust plans in place. We have enough antiviral stocks to cover 50 per cent. of the population (some 33.5 million courses); we are further increasing the stockpile so that it is enough to cover 80 per cent. of the population (some 50 million courses).

We also expect Flu Line, which will be used to assess symptoms and authorise antivirals for individuals, to be operational by the autumn, thus ensuring we have additional capability to respond to a re-emergence of the virus.

On 15 May, the Government also announced the signing of agreements with vaccine manufacturers for up to 90 million doses of a pre-pandemic vaccine based on the current H1N1 strain. The agreements could provide enough vaccine to protect the most vulnerable groups in our population before a pandemic is likely to arrive. In the event of a pandemic, the Advanced Purchase Agreements previously signed with Baxter and GlaxoSmithKline will be activated; these will enable the United Kingdom to purchase enough vaccine to cover 100 per cent. of the UK population.

In addition, we are increasing our stocks of facemasks, respirators and antibiotics to ensure we have sufficient stocks of countermeasures to tackle a re-emergence of swine influenza later in the year.

We are also ensuring that the national health service is well prepared to handle the consequences of any re-emergence.

Liver Diseases

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the age of the youngest *(a)* girl and *(b)* boy admitted to hospital with an alcohol-related liver condition was in each of the last three years. [270217]

Dawn Primarolo: Due to data quality concerns we are unable to provide the data requested. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care have advised that the maximum or minimum values are more susceptible to error than other values and that if the data were supplied on the youngest girl and boy admitted to hospital with an alcohol-related liver disease it may be erroneous and therefore misleading.

Maternity Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 956-57W, on childbirth, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of midwives that will be required and *(b)* the resource budget of paediatric medical services in each year to 2031 assuming the number of births to be as set out in the table; and what estimate he has made of (i) marginal cost and (ii) capital value of the maternity services required to manage that volume of births. [276285]

Ann Keen: No such estimates have been made. Strategic health authority plans to increase midwifery numbers up to 4,000 by 2012 have factored in future forecast birth rates.

Meals on Wheels

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on the provision of meals on wheels services in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [277202]

Phil Hope: The Department has not incurred expenditure on the provision of meals on wheels services by local authorities.

Local authorities pay for publicly-funded adult social care services, including meals on wheels, out of their general funds. Local authorities receive central Government funding from Her Majesty's Treasury, which is distributed to them by the Department for Communities and Local Government, as well as income from local taxation—via council tax receipts—and from other Government Departments and private contributions.

It is not possible to say how much, if any, of the Department's monies councils use to fund meals on wheels services, as this funding is part of a larger sum of money received by councils.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean of 23 March and 11 May 2009, on bowel cancer screening, reference FD5531. [276770]

Mr. Bradshaw: I apologise for the delay in responding to this correspondence. A response will be sent to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria the local service providers for the National Programme for IT will be required to meet by November 2009; and what circumstances will trigger the launch of his Department's new plan for delivering health informatics to healthcare. [276051]

Mr. Bradshaw: The role of national programme local service providers (LSPs) is to deliver information technology (IT) systems and services across the national health service within defined groups of strategic health authorities. LSPs ensure the integration of existing local systems and, where necessary, implement new systems so that the national applications can be delivered locally, while maintaining common standards. All LSPs have contracted to develop and deliver a fully integrated NHS care record solution, and are in the process of doing so. This role was established at the outset of the programme, and will not change between now and end November 2009.

The Department's Chief Information Officer has recently made clear our commitment to opening up the health care IT market to new suppliers and new technological developments, to inject more pace into the programme. Our aim is to help trusts configure systems to best meet their local needs, as well as taking advantage of market developments to make more use of the information they hold. Officials will be working closely with the NHS and current suppliers to improve the pace of delivery. We will be prepared to consider alternative arrangements in the event that significant progress has not been demonstrated before the end of 2009.

NHS: Pay

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS employees have a salary exceeding that of the Prime Minister. [269717]

Ann Keen: The salary of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is £194,250 a year from 1 April 2009. Direct comparisons between this figure and the salaries of national health service employees for 2009-10 are not yet possible. However, using data from the Electronic Staff Record, the NHS Information Centre's analysis of monthly salary payments suggests that there were 56 medical and non-medical NHS staff with estimated annual earnings of over £194,250, as at December 2008.

Details of NHS pay rates under the national frameworks are available as follows:

The rates for doctors and dentists, and for staff employed under Agenda for Change, are set out in Pay Circulars which are published on the NHS Employers' website at:

www.nhsemployers.org

The rates for very senior NHS managers employed in strategic health authorities, primary care trusts, special health authorities and ambulance trusts are set out in the relevant pay framework issued by the Department. This is updated annually, and a copy of the document for 2009-10 has been placed in the Library. It is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_097599

NHS: Standards

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Quality Outcomes Framework targets will next be reviewed. [276836]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following a public consultation, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is now responsible for overseeing an independent process for developing and reviewing clinical and health improvement indicators in the Quality Outcomes Framework in general practice for England. NICE is expected to provide initial recommendations on indicators in the summer.

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust pays invoices within 10 days. [276761]

Mr. Bradshaw: David Nicholson, NHS chief executive, wrote to all NHS trust chief executives on 21 October 2008 asking them to examine and review existing payment practices and payment performance, and to move as closely as possible to the 10-day payment commitment that has been set for Government Departments wherever practical.

National health service prompt payment performance against the 30-day payment target is reported in annual accounts. We are advised that the 2008-09 accounts for the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust recorded a 95 per cent. achievement against the 30-day payment target for non-NHS payments.

Strokes

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* were admitted to and *(b)* died in hospital following a stroke in each hospital in England in each of the last three years. [276415]

Ann Keen: A table and footnotes which shows how many people were admitted to hospital following a stroke and subsequently died at the hospital in each hospital in England in each of the last three years has been placed in the Library.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the progress of the national stroke strategy for England in facilitating the rapid diagnosis of strokes; what estimate he has made of the number of stroke patients who receive a specialist assessment including a brain scan within *(a)* 24 and *(b)* 48 hours in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [276723]

Ann Keen: Data on the provision of brain imaging for suspected stroke within 24 hours and electrocardiography (ECG) within 48 hours for transient ischaemic attack (TIA) are not collected centrally. However, the National Sentinel Stroke Audit, prepared by the Royal College of Physicians, which is based on clinical data collected directly from national health service trusts, details the latest evidence on the provision of stroke services including specialist assessment and scanning. The most recent audit is available at the college's website at:

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/clinical-standards/ceeu/Current-work/stroke/Pages/Audit.aspx

The Department will commission an independent evaluation of the implementation of the stroke strategy later this year which will cover the whole stroke pathway from awareness to long-term care and support. Our intention is to publish the evaluation report.

Surgery

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to enable an individual to elect to postpone an operation beyond the 18-week target waiting time. [276017]

Mr. Bradshaw: From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner to the start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. Key to this is clear communication between the patient and the hospital at all stages of treatment.

As set out in the published 18 weeks rules, a patient's 18-week waiting time clock can only be paused when a patient, who will be admitted for treatment, decides in discussion with their clinician to delay when they have their treatment. This might be for personal or social reasons, for example, to fit around work commitments or school holidays, or perhaps attend an important family event such as a wedding.

National health service performance against the 18 weeks waiting time standard is measured against the published minimum operational standards of 90 per cent. for admitted patients and 95 per cent. for non-admitted patients. The tolerances of 10 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively allow for patients who choose to wait longer than 18 weeks or where this is clinically appropriate.

Swine Flu

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has for *(a)* the distribution of and *(b)* inoculation by the T1N1 vaccination to ensure herd immunity against swine influenza by the autumn; [274618]

(2) whether (a) illegal migrants and (b) visitors normally resident overseas will be eligible for inoculation with the T1N1 influenza vaccine, should vaccination become necessary. [274619]

Dawn Primarolo: On 14 May the Government announced the signing of agreements with vaccine manufacturers for up to 90 million doses of a pre-pandemic vaccine based on the current H1N1 strain. The agreements could provide enough vaccine to protect the most vulnerable groups in our population before a pandemic is likely to arrive. In the event of a pandemic, the Advanced Purchase Agreements (APAs) previously signed with Baxter and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) will be activated; these will enable the United Kingdom to purchase enough vaccine to cover 100 per cent. of the UK population.

The plans for the implementation of a mass vaccination strategy are set out in guidance published by the Department for primary care trusts (PCTs) in December 2008. A copy has been placed in the Library. It sets out the key national responsibilities of the Department and the arrangements needed to be put in place to administer vaccinations through local national health service organisations.

The guidance referred to above assumes that the vaccination will be delivered at PCT level through general practitioner surgeries or mass vaccination centres. The currently identified groups for pandemic influenza vaccination include: frontline health and social care workers, children under 16, older people and those clinically at risk. Persons eligible within those groups may include overseas visitors and illegal migrants. However, the priority groups will be reviewed in light of emerging evidence on the virulence and severity of the new virus in different groups.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on the outcome of litigation in the Scottish courts against the manufacturers of nitrazepam. [276003]

Dawn Primarolo: We have received no such reports.

Vaccination: Side Effects

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many reports of adverse reaction to the bacillus calmette guérin vaccination there were in each year since 1985; [276220]

(2) how many reports of adverse reaction to vaccinations against *(a)* measles, *(b)* rubella, *(c)* polio, *(d)* whooping cough, *(e)* tetanus, *(f)* diphtheria and *(g)* mumps there were in each year since 1985; [276221]

(3) how many reports of adverse reaction to the Haemophilus Influenza Type B vaccination there were in each year since 1985. [276222]

Dawn Primarolo: The numbers of reports of suspected adverse reactions (ADRs) submitted via the Yellow Card Scheme between 1 January 1985 and 31 December 2008 associated with the following vaccines: Bacillus Calmette Guérin (BCG), measles, mumps, rubella, polio, whooping cough (bordetella pertussis), tetanus, diphtheria and Haemophilus Influenza Type B (HIB) are shown in

the following tables. This includes combinations of the above vaccines. As a single Yellow Card report may contain more than one suspect vaccine, the total number of reports differs from the sum of the number of suspected adverse reactions to individual vaccines.

Data from the Yellow Card Scheme are continually reviewed to identify new safety issues with medicines and vaccines, and where safety issues are identified appropriate action is taken to protect public health. It is very important to note that the report of a suspected ADR via the Yellow Card Scheme and inclusion in the tables does not necessarily mean that a reaction was caused by the vaccine. Yellow Card reports are suspicions that a vaccine or medicine may have caused a reaction and are not proof of a causal association.

During this time period, tens of millions of children and adults have been immunised with these vaccines. The balance of benefits and risks of these vaccines is overwhelmingly favourable.

Total number of suspected ADR reports reported with the vaccines; bacillus calmette guérin (BCG) to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency between 1 January 1985 and 31 December 2008 associated, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, whooping cough and Haemophilus Influenza Type B (HIB)

	BCG	DT	DT IPV	DTP	DTP HIB	DTP IPV	DTP IPV HIB	HIB	HIB and HepB	Measles and Rubella	MenC HIB
1985	57	142	—	141	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1986	38	318	—	136	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1987	49	111	—	148	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1988	10	122	—	177	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1989	21	68	—	157	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1990	14	75	—	231	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1991	25	117	—	202	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1992	32	131	—	208	—	—	—	402	—	—	—
1993	31	140	—	326	—	—	—	1,223	—	—	—
1994	31	159	—	303	—	—	—	311	—	893	—
1995	57	208	—	219	—	—	—	146	—	313	—
1996	93	235	—	190	97	—	—	110	—	17	—
1997	38	187	—	77	165	—	—	61	—	6	—
1998	41	258	—	81	164	—	—	27	—	1	—
1999	50	135	—	502	91	—	—	251	—	2	—
2000	15	131	—	144	233	—	—	107	—	—	—
2001	71	78	—	86	111	—	—	34	—	2	—
2002	126	47	—	243	276	—	1	40	—	—	—
2003	486	76	—	225	385	—	—	343	—	—	—
2004	348	53	59	287	189	120	53	30	1	—	—
2005	331	15	177	18	8	435	498	9	—	—	—
2006	38	6	80	28	4	209	115	4	—	1	11
2007	41	1	108	20	2	69	171	4	—	—	60
2008	32	—	83	13	10	11	255	2	—	1	48

	MMR	Single Diphtheria	Single Measles	Single Mumps	Single Pertussis	Single Polio	Single Rubella	Single Tetanus
1985	—	89	83	—	58	17	18	229
1986	—	74	92	—	114	5	24	206
1987	3	13	78	1	38	6	23	168
1988	264	3	73	1	3	11	22	312
1989	1,064	5	2	3	7	9	16	241
1990	484	1	1	—	10	8	13	217
1991	263	6	3	—	10	47	7	134
1992	200	2	—	—	9	96	18	121
1993	125	3	—	—	5	119	9	80
1994	130	4	7	—	6	101	11	115
1995	133	7	5	—	8	88	7	58
1996	140	6	1	—	3	86	7	54
1997	204	2	2	—	2	93	3	46
1998	169	6	—	—	1	130	6	55
1999	108	2	1	—	—	104	8	40
2000	174	4	—	—	4	204	1	47
2001	95	3	—	—	1	84	7	33
2002	91	2	5	1	2	81	7	21
2003	105	2	6	1	1	123	7	8
2004	105	—	1	1	2	103	6	6
2005	204	—	4	—	—	16	5	2
2006	155	1	4	—	1	4	4	8
2007	101	—	5	1	—	3	4	2

	MMR	Single Diphtheria	Single Measles	Single Mumps	Single Pertussis	Single Polio	Single Rubella	Single Tetanus
2008	124	–	2	–	–	3	8	3

Abbreviations:
Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG)
Whooping Cough (Pertussis) (P)
Diphtheria (D)
Tetanus (T)
Haemophilus Influenza Type B (HIB)
Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
Inactivated Polio Virus (IPV)
* DTP includes wholecell and acellular DTP vaccines
* IPV includes inactivated and live polio vaccines

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 5 May 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

14 Tothill Street

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission for how many months the offices at 14 Tothill Street have been empty; for what reasons the offices have been empty; and what the cost of *(a)* rent and *(b)* business rates during this period has been. [257557]

[Official Report, 9 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 25W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Harvey:

An error has been identified in a written answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 9 March 2009. The answer incorrectly stated that the rent-free period was 12 months. The rent-free period is six months. In addition it incorrectly implied that the Memorandum of Understanding was already in place whereas it is in fact yet to be agreed. The answer should have read as follows:

Nick Harvey: The building was acquired following a property search to meet a need from the House of Lords for decant space to facilitate the development of the Millbank Island site and a requirement for additional space from the House of Commons. The property search had revealed a dearth of suitable accommodation at that time within an acceptable distance of the Palace of Westminster, 14 Tothill street being the only one available with sufficient space that met the criteria.

The lease commenced in October 2007. It is held by the House of Commons and a Memorandum of Understanding will cover the House of Lords' use of part of the building and the facilities.

When acquired it had been refurbished by the landlord ready for fitting out, including services, by the tenant. The initial six months were rent-free, reflecting the sort of period that would be needed for any tenant to bring the building into beneficial use. Work on the floors to be occupied by the House of Lords is timed to be completed for the return of the House from the summer adjournment and the move of the Law Lords to the new Supreme Court building. A decision will be taken this month on the occupation of the House of Commons' space. The decision will be based on the need to free up 1 Derby Gate for occupation by Members as recommended by the Administration Committee.

The Commons share of the total rent paid to date, including the current quarter, is £2.38 million (including VAT). Business rates are not due until the property is occupied.

TRANSPORT

Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1612W, on rolling stock, when the remaining 227 carriages will be ordered; and to which operators they will be allocated. [264203]

[Official Report, 18 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 1152W.]

Letter of correction from Paul Clark:

An error has been identified in a written answer given to the hon. Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond) on 18 March 2009. The correct answer should have been:

Paul Clark: The remaining 327 carriages for High Level Output Specification (HLOS) capacity are made up of the growth element of the Thameslink build which is due to be ordered in 2009-10, and is identified in the *Official Report*, column 1612W.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 12 May 2009

HEALTH

Cancer: Death

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in mortality rates of *(a)* common cancers and *(b)* rarer cancers; and if he will make a statement. [232840]

[Official Report, 18 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 344-50W.]

Letter of correction from Kevin Brennan:

The UK Statistics Authority has identified an error in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) on 18 November 2008.

The original answer provided a table of the age-standardised mortality rates in England, by sex, for the period 1971 to 2005 for all cancers combined and for each cancer where this information was readily available. The error occurred in the rates presented for prostate cancer, which were incorrect for all the years shown, because of a clerical error. In the original table, prostate cancer is ranked 9th on the list for males. On the corrected table, it appears 5th on the list, as the figures are presented in rank order for the first year of data (1971).

The corrected tables are as follows:

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population by cancer site and sex, England, 1971-2005[1]

Rate per 100,000 population

Sex	*Site*	*1971*	*1972*	*1973*	*1974*	*1975*	*1976*	*1977*	*1978*	*1979*	*1980*	*1981*
Male	All cancers	284	286	286	288	284	289	285	286	287	285	284
	Lung	107	109	109	110	107	108	106	108	106	104	101
	Colorectal	34	34	33	34	33	34	33	32	32	31	31
	Stomach	32	31	31	30	30	29	28	28	27	26	25
	Prostate	21	21	21	21	23	22	22	21	22	22	22
	Bladder	13	13	13	13	12	13	13	13	12	12	12
	Pancreas	12	12	12	12	13	12	12	12	13	13	12
	Leukaemia	8	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	Oesophagus	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	8	9	9
	Brain	4	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Lip, mouth and pharynx	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Kidney	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5
	Non Hodgkin's lymphoma	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
	Larynx	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Myeloma	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	4
	Hogkin's disease	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
	Testis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Melanoma	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Female	All cancers	175	175	176	178	176	181	179	180	182	183	182
	Breast	39	39	40	39	40	40	40	40	40	40	41
	Colorectal	26	26	26	26	26	26	25	25	24	24	23
	Lung	19	19	20	21	22	22	23	23	24	25	25
	Stomach	15	15	14	14	13	13	12	13	12	12	11
	Ovary	13	13	12	12	12	13	12	13	12	12	12
	Cervix	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	7	7	7	7
	Pancreas	7	7	7	8	7	8	8	7	8	8	7
	Uterus	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	4
	Leukaemia	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Oesophagus	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Bladder	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4
	Brain	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Non Hodgkin's lymphoma	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Myeloma	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population by cancer site and sex, England, 1971-2005[1]

Rate per 100,000 population

Sex	*Site*	*1971*	*1972*	*1973*	*1974*	*1975*	*1976*	*1977*	*1978*	*1979*	*1980*	*1981*
	Kidney	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Lip, mouth and pharynx	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Melanoma	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2
	Hogkin's disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Larynx	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

Rate per 100,000 population

Sex	*Site*	*1982*	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
Male	All cancers	281	286	285	283	277	278	279	276	275	274	271	269
	Lung	100	101	97	96	92	90	89	85	84	82	79	76
	Colorectal	30	31	31	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
	Stomach	24	25	23	22	22	21	21	20	19	18	18	16
	Prostate	22	23	24	25	26	26	27	28	28	29	30	31
	Bladder	12	12	12	12	12	11	12	11	12	12	12	12
	Pancreas	11	12	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10
	Leukaemia	8	8	8	8	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
	Oesophagus	9	10	9	10	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	12
	Brain	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	6	6
	Lip, mouth and pharynx	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Kidney	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
	Non Hodgkin's lymphoma	5	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	8
	Larynx	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
	Myeloma	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Hogkin's disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Testis	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Melanoma	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Female	All cancers	182	183	185	185	184	185	186	186	183	182	180	180
	Breast	41	41	41	41	42	41	41	41	40	40	39	39
	Colorectal	22	23	22	22	21	21	21	21	20	20	20	19
	Lung	26	26	28	27	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29
	Stomach	10	10	10	9	9	9	8	8	8	7	7	7
	Ovary	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
	Cervix	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5
	Pancreas	8	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	8
	Uterus	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
	Leukaemia	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
	Oesophagus	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
	Bladder	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	3
	Brain	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Non Hodgkin's lymphoma	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
	Myeloma	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Kidney	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Lip, mouth and pharynx	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
	Melanoma	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Rate per 100,000 population

Sex	*Site*	*1982*	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
	Hogkin's disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
	Larynx	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1

Rate per 100,000 population

Sex	*Site*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Male	All cancers	264	260	254	246	246	238	232	228	227	222	221	213
	Lung	74	71	68	65	64	61	59	57	56	54	52	51
	Colorectal	28	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	24	23	23	21
	Stomach	16	15	15	14	13	13	12	11	11	10	9	9
	Prostate	31	31	30	29	29	28	27	27	27	27	26	26
	Bladder	11	11	11	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	8
	Pancreas	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Leukaemia	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	Oesophagus	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
	Brain	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	Lip, mouth and pharynx	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4
	Kidney	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	Non Hodgkin's lymphoma	7	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	8	7	7	7
	Larynx	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Myeloma	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Hogkin's disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Testis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Melanoma	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Female	All cancers	178	176	173	170	168	165	163	160	159	156	157	153
	Breast	38	37	35	34	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	28
	Colorectal	19	18	18	17	17	16	15	15	15	14	14	13
	Lung	30	29	29	28	29	29	28	28	28	29	28	29
	Stomach	7	6	5	6	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
	Ovary	12	12	12	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	10	10
	Cervix	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
	Pancreas	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8
	Uterus	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
	Leukaemia	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Oesophagus	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Bladder	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Brain	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Non Hodgkin's lymphoma	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4
	Myeloma	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
	Kidney	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Lip, mouth and pharynx	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1
	Melanoma	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Hogkin's disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Larynx	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Cause of death for cancers was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Eighth Revision (ICD-8) for 1971 to 1978, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for 1979 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 to 2005. See the box below for specific codes.

	ICD8	*ICD9*	*ICD10*
All cancers	140-205	140-208	C00-C97
Bladder	188	188	C67
Brain	191	191	C71
Breast	174	174	C50
Cervix	180	180	C53
Colorectal	153-154	153-154	C18-21
Hogkin's disease	201	201	C81
Kidney	189	189	C64-66, C68
Larynx	161	161	C32
Leukaemia	204-207	204-208	C91-C95 xC91.4
Lip, mouth and pharynx	140-149	140-149	C00-C14
Lung	162	162	C33-C34
Melanoma	172	172	C43
Myeloma	203	203	C88, C90
Non Hodgkin's lymphoma	200, 202	200, 202	C82-C85,C91.4, C96
Oesophagus	150	150	C15
Ovary	183	183	C56-C57
Pancreas	157	157	C25
Prostate	185	185	C61
Stomach	151	151	C16
Testis	186	186	C62
Uterus	182	182	C54-C55

Blood: Donation

Mr. O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of donated blood was used in each year since 1999. [256709]

[Official Report, 23 February 2009, Vol. 488, c. 200W.]

Letter of correction from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 23 February 2009. I am sorry that some of the figures in the last two rows of the table were transposed.

The correct figures are as follows:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Whole blood donations collected (thousand)	2,039	1,971	1,972
Red cells validated (thousand)	1,939	1,876	1,838
Red cells expired	6	6	3
Red cells issuable	1,933	1,870	1,835
Percentage red cells issuable	94.8	94.9	95.2
Red cells issued (thousand)	1,941	1,873	1,825
Number of hospitals participating	119	119	112
Percentage transfused	100.4	99.8	97.1
Percentage not transfused	2.6	2.2	2.2

A validated unit of red cells is one that has been processed, tested, and labelled/validated as fit for issue to hospitals.

Participating hospitals have only been submitting data on units transfused for a full 12 months since 2005-06.

Figures stated for the percentage of units transfused and not transfused are based on data submitted by hospitals compared against NHSBT figures for number of units issued. There is a small degree of duplication in submitted data due to the transfer of blood between hospitals, meaning some figures exceed 100.

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Redundancy: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people have been made redundant in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last six months; [265801]

(2) how many people identified as unemployed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire had been out of work for 12 months or more in each of the last five months; [265804]

(3) how many people under the age of 21 years were identified as unemployed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years; [265806]

(4) how many people identifying themselves as disabled have been employed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [265818]

[Official Report, 24 March 2009, Vol. 490, c. 284-85W.]

Letter of correction from Kevin Brennan:

The UK Statistics Authority has identified an error in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) to question 265806 on 24 March 2009.

The original answer provided a table of the number of persons claiming JSA under the age of 19, resident in the Hemel Hempstead constituency and Hertfordshire for the periods February 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. This was provided as an alternative answer to the above question, as statistics of the count of claimants of persons claiming JSA were not available for persons under the age of 21. The error occurred in the count of claimants for Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire, which were incorrect for all the years shown—they were double the corrected figures, because of a clerical error.

The correct table is as follows:

Table 1. Number of persons aged under 19 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire

As at February each year	*Hemel Hempstead*	*Hertfordshire*
2005	134	949
2006	161	1,106
2007	140	1,098
2008	121	886
2009	189	1,594

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3, *(d)* 4, *(e)* 5 and *(f)* 6 sustainable homes have been built in each quarter since the Code for Sustainable Buildings was implemented; and how many homes at each level she expects to be built in each of the next three years. [265270]

[Official Report, 29 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 1383W.]

Letter of correction from Iain Wright:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 29 April 2009.

The correct answer should have been.

Mr. Iain Wright: The Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) became operational in April 2007. We estimate that it takes on average 18 months to two years to go through the design, planning and building of any home. To achieve Code status in the most cost effective manner, homes need to be specifically designed for the Code.

The Code process has three main stages, registration, design and post construction—there is a significant number of homes within the process—and these numbers are increasing monthly, even in the current difficult economic climate. The following data are March 2009, with an August 2008 comparison.

Number of code certificates issued by end March 2009 and August 2008

			Post construction (by code level)					
	Registration	*Design*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*
March 2009	>190,000	1,231	0	1	58	4	2	0
August 2008	45,000	247	0	0	0	2	0	0

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 14 May 2009

DEFENCE

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average number of *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual flying hours for aircraft was in each year since 2001; [216235]

(2) what the average number of *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual flying hours for the (i) Harrier GR7, (ii) Harrier GR9, (iii) Tornado GR4, (iv) Tornado F3 and (v) Typhoon aircraft was in each year since 2001. [216252]

[Official Report, 10 July 2008, Vol. 478, c. 1748-1750W.]

Letter of correction from Bob Ainsworth:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 10 July 2008. In compiling the table the actual flying hours for the Typhoon fleet were understated because the data provided did not include the hours flown by 17 Squadron Operational Evaluation Unit.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no requirement to hold data on average flying hours. The planned and actual flying hours for fixed wing aircraft from all three services in each year since 2001 are broken down as follows:

		Financial year						
		2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Jaguar	Planned	12,543	12,996	13,260	11,247	9,156	3,576	0
	Actual	11,877	12,007	11,440	10,348	7,185	3,512	[1]500
Sea Harrier	Planned	5,633	6,219	6,219	4,491	1,980	[2]Out of service	Out of service
	Actual	4,843	5,563	5,347	3,506	1,404	[2]Out of service	Out of service
Harrier T8	Planned	925	925	925	925	463	[2]Out of service	Out of service
	Actual	682	595	656	592	338	[2]Out of service	Out of service
Harrier GR7/GR9/T10/T12	Planned	[3]15,282	[3]14,809	[3]15,424	[3]15,024	[3]13,890	[3]15,424	[3]14,550
Harrier GR 7	Actual	12,073	12,079	10,527	11,768	11,110	[4]13,010	[4]13,231
Harrier GR 9	Actual	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	475	[4]—	[4]—
Harrier T10/T12	Actual	[5]n/a	[5]n/a	[5]n/a	1,358	1,482	[4]—	[4]—
Tornado F3	Planned	24,193	23,022	26,406	22,026	18,805	17,114	13,704
	Actual	20,922	21,515	23,231	20,066	17,613	14,245	11,850
Tornado GR1/4	Planned	26,366	[3]26,058	29,044	28,600	26,438	28,260	28,279
	Actual	22,497	[3]25,908	29,017	26,766	28,071	30,518	26,984
Typhoon	Planned	Not in service	399	580	1,260	3,380	8,438	11,700
	Actual	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	345	2,160	5,735	9,656
Tristar	Planned	9,561	9,561	9,561	10,561	11,191	11,561	11,561
	Actual	10,824	10,603	8,879	8,657	7,693	8,398	9,008
VC10	Planned	11,550	11,550	11,550	10,550	9,920	9,550	9,550
	Actual	12,345	11,413	13,145	10,773	11,814	10,452	9,670
Bae 125	Planned	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,310
	Actual	2,403	2,526	2,553	2,414	2,393	2,391	2,636
Bae 146	Planned	1,080	1,080	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
	Actual	1,195	1,052	791	827	1,026	1,303	1,085
Hercules C1/3/4/5	Planned	36,709	37,458	37,458	34,958	34,958	34,958	34,958
	Actual	39,834	39,871	35,173	30,640	27,906	28,836	27,647
C17A	Planned	3,000	3,000	4,000	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
	Actual	3,377	5,745	5,592	5,727	6,375	7,087	6,921
Jetstream T2/T3	Planned	4,675	4,675	4,875	4,875	4,875	4,875	4,875
	Actual	3,752	3,865	4,129	4,402	4,085	4,339	4,583
Jetstream T1	Planned	5,851	5,854	5,867	[6]Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service
	Actual	4,678	4,862	3,667	[6]Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service
Canberra T4 and PR9	Planned	1,326	1,803	1,989	1,989	1,989	[7]Out of service	Out of service
	Actual	1,255	1,239	1,083	1,084	889	[7]Not available	Out of service

		Financial year						
		2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Islander AL1	Planned	[8]n/a	[8]n/a	[8]n/a	2,759	2,760	2,760	2,760
	Actual	2,228	2,302	2,396	2,112	1,908	1,857	1,621
Islander CC2	Planned	800	800	800	1,200	1,600	1,600	1,600
	Actual	945	890	952	908	1,563	1,609	1,519
Nimrod MR2	Planned	10,689	10,580	10,580	9,980	8,000	8,000	8,000
	Actual	11,042	10,387	10,759	10,898	8,060	6,882	6,634
Nimrod R1	Planned	1,743	1,250	1,915	1,915	1,915	1,915	1,915
	Actual	1,536	1,302	1,356	1,220	1,385	1,160	1,415
Sentry AEW1	Planned	4,446	4,134	4,134	4,586	4,898	5,210	4,785
	Actual	5,274	6,077	3,955	3,285	3,561	3,247	3,000
Sentinel R1	Planned	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	100	1,600	2,400	1,835
	Actual	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	16	625
Dominie	Planned	5,448	5,425	5,275	5,275	4,650	4,150	4,150
	Actual	4,353	4,445	4,593	4,199	4,048	3,527	3,283
Hawk	Planned	31,745	32,382	32,362	27,022	25,997	28,278	22,480
	Actual	26,562	27,341	29,148	25,785	25,340	24,320	22,681
Tucano	Planned	25,706	25,578	25,248	16,500	14,660	16,385	14,855
	Actual	19,892	21,389	22,154	16,166	12,608	11,970	12,939
Bulldog	Planned	n/a	[9]Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service
	Actual	403	[9]Outof service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service

[1] Jaguar withdrawn from service August 2007.
[2] Sea Harrier and Harrier T8 were withdrawn from service in 2006.
[3] Harrier planned Figures are combined for Harrier GR7, GJA9 and T10/2.
[4] Harrier actual Figures FY 06-07 and FY 07-08 are the combined totals for all Harrier variants GR7, GR9, T10/12.
[5] Harrier T10/12 figures before FY 04-05 are no longer available.
[6] Jetstream T1 was withdrawn from service in 2004-05.
[7] Canberra PR9 and T4 were withdrawn from service by 2006.
[8] Islander AL1 planned figures are not available before FY 2004-05.
[9] Bulldog was withdrawn from service in 2002.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband: Rural Areas

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to improve the telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas to extend the provision of high speed broadband. [270209]

[Official Report, 28 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 1270W.]

Letter of correction from Pat McFadden:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) on 28 April 2009. There was an error in the first sentence of the answer which read:

"The Budget confirmed the Government's plans to deliver a Universal Service for broadband up to 2 Mbps by 2012."

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. McFadden: The Budget confirmed the Government's plans to deliver a Universal Service for broadband at 2 Mbps by 2012. This will allow virtually everyone to benefit from broadband services. The Budget also underlines the Government's commitment to helping business take full advantage of the opportunities offered in this area by announcing a review of Ofcom's powers and duties to ensure it can strike the right balance between supporting competition and encouraging investment. As you are aware, Universal Service and Next Generation Access are also key aspects of the Digital Britain report, which will be published shortly.

The Government will also be carrying out research on broadband 'Not spots' under the cross-Government paper "Delivering Digital Inclusion—An Action Plan for Consultation" with the objective of putting information into the hands of local communities to enable them to manage the risks, and realise the opportunities of Next Generation Access locally and regionally, where they identify a need and want to activate their own solutions. This will also cover the devolved Administrations of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 19 May 2009

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Business of the House

Ms Sally Keeble (Northampton, North) (Lab): Will my right hon. and learned Friend, who expressed her views and gave voice to the House on the issue of the need to clean up the expenses system, urge the House authorities to provide Members on request with an electronic copy of our receipts and claims, with full access rights—not just a read-only copy—so that we can make the redactions that are indicated but not made on the electronic copy that we have? We can then put them on our websites or do what we want with them. Please will she ensure that that happens so that we have proper access to our own data and can manage it as we choose?

[Official Report, 14 May 2009, Vol. 492, c. 1024-1025.]

Letter of correction from Harriet Harman:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) during Business Questions on 14 May 2009. The answer given was as follows:

Ms Harman: Many hon. Members have been asked by their local newspapers, which are read by the constituents who elected them, to put details of their own claims and the payments received in the public domain so that the local newspaper can report them. Many hon. Members want to do that because, having been elected by their constituents, they feel that their constituents are entitled to know where their Member of Parliament stands amidst all of this. The difficulty is that the information on the claims and payments made that we have been given by the House authorities in electronic form cannot be given to local newspapers because it includes all sorts of information that to give out would breach the freedom of information laws. For example, if I gave out the information about my expenses to the *South London Press*, which I want to do without having to wait for the House authorities to do so, I would be putting in the public domain the bank statements of my assistant, who is not at all keen that I should do that. I understand why, and it would be breaking the law.

This morning I asked the Clerk of the House if we could have not only a read-only copy but one that we could pass on to our local paper with the genuinely personal bits crossed out, and he is discussing that with the House authorities. That is not the situation at the moment and hon. Members will just have to tell their local newspapers that they can either come in and read the hard copies, with the personal parts, such as bank account details, crossed out, or simply wait for the House of Commons to enable us to provide an electronic copy. All local newspapers should recognise that although many hon. Members would not feel obliged to respond to national newspapers, they do feel accountable to their local constituents. The local newspapers report to the local constituents and Members want to be accountable to them.

The correct answer should have been:

Ms Harman: Many hon. Members have been asked by their local newspapers, which are read by the constituents who elected them, to put details of their own claims and the payments received in the public domain so that the local newspaper can report them. Many hon. Members want to do that because, having been elected by their constituents, they feel that their constituents are entitled to know where their Member of Parliament stands amidst all of this. The difficulty is that the information on the claims and payments made that we have been given by the House authorities in electronic form cannot be given to local newspapers because it includes all sorts of information that to give out would breach data protection laws. For example, if I gave out the information about my expenses to the *South London Press*, which I want to do without having to wait for the House authorities to do so, I would be putting in the public domain the bank statements of my assistant, who is not at all keen that I should do that. I understand why, and it would be breaking the law.

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